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# STARS AND STRIPES

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## Taste of Texas

Veterans open distillery turning desert weeds into unique liquor

BY ROSE L. THAYER  
*Stars and Stripes*

**K**ENTUCKY is known for its bourbon, and Tennessee for its whiskey. Then there's Mexico and tequila, Russia and vodka. But in Texas, as bold and brazen as the Lone Star State might be, there's no distinctly Texan liquor.

Three veterans are looking to change that, putting to use their experience from three military branches and their deep Texas roots.

In November, Ryan Campbell, Brent Looby and Judson Kauffman launched Desert Door Distillery, selling sotol, an alcohol made from a west Texas plant of the same name. Operating out of Driftwood, Texas, the distillery is south of



PHOTOS BY ROSE L. THAYER/Stars and Stripes  
Top: A barrel used for Desert Door Distillery's aged sotol. Above: Brent Looby, a Marine Corps pilot who served 20 years and retired in 2017, examines a still in Driftwood, Texas.

**"I'd say we used more skills from the military than we did our business degree."**

**Ryan Campbell**  
former Army intelligence soldier and co-owner of Desert Door Distillery

Austin and just minutes from the famed Salt Lick barbecue restaurant—also a veteran-founded Texas institution.

"We love Texas and thought, 'What better thing to give to the state we love than a liquor that's unique to it,'" said Campbell, 39, a former Army intelligence soldier who served five years, leaving as a sergeant.

SEE TEXAS ON PAGE 8

Renewed effort in Europe to find WWII lost is paying off

BY JENNIFER H. SVAN  
*Stars and Stripes*

KAISERSLAUTERN, Germany — Three weeks before World War II ended in 1945, 1st Lt. William "Bill" Gray crashed his single-seat P-47 Thunderbolt while strafing a truck near Lindau, Germany.

When Army investigators recovered his remains 71 years later, they found his bones embedded in the roots of a tree.

Gray was one of the first U.S. service-members missing from World War II to be recovered from Europe and identified after a major reorganization in 2014 of the embattled agencies tasked to account for the tens of thousands of Americans who never returned from war. The Pentagon-ordered merger created the Defense POW/MIA Accounting Agency, with one chain of command and one budget.

The return of Gray's remains to his family in Seattle last year reflects the renewed push for the DPAA to bring fallen World War II troops home from across the European and Mediterranean theaters and to expand its focus beyond the Vietnam War.

In 2010, Congress expanded the scope

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COURTESY OF ERIC M. LACLAIR/DPAA

Air Force Senior Master Sgt. Jeremy Raymond, with the Defense POW/MIA Accounting Agency, cleans a .50-caliber machine gun in 2016. The gun was mounted to an aircraft during World War II and was found during a DPAA recovery operation in Novi Troy Any, Ukraine.

## MILITARY

# Nicholson bids farewell to III MEF in command change

By MATTHEW M. BURKE

Stars and Stripes

CAMP COURTNEY, Okinawa — Lt. Gen. Lawrence Nicholson's last official act as the top Marine in Japan might not surprise those who served with the personable, hard-charging III Marine Expeditionary Force commander during his nearly four-decade career.

Just hours before he handed leadership to Lt. Gen. Eric Smith Thursday evening on Camp Courtney's parade grounds, Nicholson meritoriously promoted five Marines and a Navy corpsman in an intimate ceremony in front of their family and friends at the Operation Iceberg memorial.

Nicholson recited the biography of each servicemember from memory before presenting them with their awards and shaking their hands.

"This is hallowed ground," he said as the troops crowded around. "Any promotion is a great day ... but you do it here in Okinawa; you do it at the site of this monument here — it's something I don't care if you're a Marine for four years or 40, you will always remember this day. I'm proud as hell of each and every one of you."

Newly minted Sgt. Isaiah Bernstein, of the 3rd Reconnaissance Battalion, said he was surprised when he heard that Nicholson would be presiding over his promotion so close to the change of command.

"I didn't think I'd get to have

this opportunity while I was in the Marine Corps," he said. "It's amazing."

Petty Officer 2nd Class Emily Clemmer was the lone sailor promoted at the ceremony.

"Getting meritoriously promoted is great but to get it done here, next to this monument, and with a three-star [general] pinning me; it's really great, and the fact that he knew our bias, it was very honoring and flattering."

## Tough ... to walk away'

Later that evening, Nicholson presented the colors to Smith — fresh off a command tour with the 1st Marine Division at Camp Pendleton, Calif. — as his Marines stood at attention before him under the parade ground lights.

"This is a tough one, to walk away," said Nicholson, who will return to the U.S. where he intends to retire. "Is this bitter-sweet? For sure ... ladies and gentlemen, it has been the honor and privilege of my lifetime to be the commander of the III Marine Expeditionary Force."

After taking over from Lt. Gen. John Wissler on Sept. 11, 2015, Nicholson navigated his Marines through a tense period that included an uptick in provocations from North Korea that set the world on edge.

Nicholson also played the role of diplomat, as he was called upon again and again to apologize for a spate of crimes perpetrated by servicemembers within the tiny

island prefecture. He also was responsible for curbing alcohol-related incidents among U.S. military personnel — a particularly sore spot for Okinawans.

Commandant of the Marine Corps Gen. Robert Neller called Nicholson the service's "most operationally experienced and capable commander."

"I've known Larry Nicholson over 20 years now," Neller said at Thursday's ceremony. "Everywhere he's gone and everywhere he's served, he's done pretty much the same thing. He's come in with a lot of energy; he's come in with a lot of operational expertise; he's come in with an idea to try and make whatever unit he was in more operationally effective, to make it better and to improve everything he could for the Marines that he served with."

## 'Same high standards'

Nicholson introduced Smith by relaying how they met in Ramadi, Iraq. Nicholson saw the then-lieutenant colonel limping around the office of former Marine general and current Secretary of Defense Jim Mattis.

"I said, 'Why he limping?'" Nicholson said. "And [Mattis] said, 'Well, he just got shot the other day.' He was shot in the calf, and I guess it was a through-and-through, but he didn't even take a day off of work ... [he's] tough as nails."

A native of Plano, Texas, Smith joined the Marines in 1987 while



MATT BURKE/Stars and Stripes

Lt. Gen. Lawrence Nicholson, third from left, the III Marine Expeditionary Force commander, meritoriously promotes Marines and a Navy corpsman Thursday at Camp Courtney, Okinawa.

at Texas A&M University. After participating in operations Desert Shield and Desert Storm, as well as Assured Response in Monrovia, Liberia, he was assigned to Caracas, Venezuela, as the naval section chief of the U.S. Military Group there.

He served two combat deployments in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom and another in Afghanistan in support of Operation Enduring Freedom. He was a senior aide to the Marine Corps commandant and later was a senior aide to the secretary of defense.

Smith said the Marines and their Okinawan hosts should expect "predictability and stability" from his leadership.

"You won't see significant changes," he told Stars and Stripes after the ceremony. "You'll see steady, slow, dependable improvement."

Smith isn't without controversy. Earlier this year, the San Diego Union-Tribune reported that the general was "upbraided" by the U.S. Navy-Marine Corps Court of Criminal Appeals, which found

that he had committed unlawful command influence by overstepping his bounds during efforts to stamp out hazing in the 1st Marine Division.

He arrives during an eventful time on Okinawa. Landfill on a controversial runway into Oura Bay at Camp Schwab is slated to begin later this month. Both Okinawa's anti-base Gov. Takeshi Onaga and the island's small but passionate protest movement are gearing up to fight the move, which will facilitate the closure and relocation of air operations at Marine Corps Air Station Futenma.

Smith implored the people of Okinawa to hold him responsible for the behavior of each and every Marine on the island.

"I will hold the Marines here to the same high standards that I hold them to in the United States," he said. "I will hold them to the same standards of safety, the same standards of conduct. My own son is a Marine, and I hold him to those same high standards. That is my promise to the citizens of Okinawa."

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## EUROPE

# Effort: DPAA increasingly leaning on partnerships to accomplish mission

## FROM FRONT PAGE

of POW/MIA searches, mandating that the Pentagon resume accounting for servicemembers missing from World War II. Before then, the Defense Department had been required to account for missing personnel only from as far back as the Vietnam War.

The original mission "largely is because of families [from] the Vietnam War pressuring the U.S. government to find the missing Americans" after the war ended in 1975, said Rear Adm. Jon Kreitz, the DPAA's deputy director. At the time, some of the missing were believed to still be alive.

"I'm very happy to see that the government said, 'You know what? There are not just Vietnam [War] families that have ... voids that they're trying to fill!'"

In the shadow of much-anticipated remains coming home from North Korea just last week, the renewed effort in Europe to find those lost from World War II is paying off as well.

## Competing for funds

As part of the broader mission, the DPAA in 2015 stood up its first European Detachment at Misau Army Depot. The office is at the forefront of accounting efforts for more than 22,000 Americans missing from World War II in 37 countries across Europe, the Mediterranean and North Africa.

Army-led recovery efforts to find and return those Americans ended worldwide in 1951. In Europe, Army mortuary and DOD teams did sporadic recoveries, but only in response to reports of possible American remains being found, a reactive, rather than proactive, approach, Kreitz said.

"One of the reasons for the new mandate in ... 2010 was the perpetual DOD dilemma of having to divert funding and staff from programmed activities in Southeast Asia," said Niall Brannigan, the director of the DPAA's Europe Detachment.

From World War II through the Persian Gulf War, nearly 83,000 servicemen remain unaccounted for, 72,000 of those are from World War II. But the agency's focus is still on Southeast Asia, a priority reflected by its allocation of resources, Kreitz said, and driven by a race against the rapid decay of remains in the region's acidic soil.

Also in Asia, the agency is poised to restart operations in North Korea, which President Donald Trump and North Korea leader Kim Jong Un committed to during their recent summit in Singapore. Recovery efforts for the 5,300 unaccounted-for remains in North Korea last took place in 2005. Last week, North Korea returned what it says are the remains of 55 American soldiers killed during the Korean War. Identifying the remains is the next step, a process that could take years.

The DPAA's \$146.3 million budget for the current fiscal year was approved in late March, almost double what it was five years ago. Less than \$6 million is allocated to the Europe-Mediterranean Directorate, under which the Europe Detachment falls, Brannigan said, though the office is expected to receive a portion of the \$10 million that the DPAA has set aside for partnership missions.

Along with a major organizational overhaul, the congressional mandate of 2010 called for what was then the Joint POW/MIA Accounting Command to account for 200 personnel annually by 2015, with guidance "to encourage us to continue to increase that," Kreitz said.

The agency is still short of that benchmark but its numbers are increasing. In 2016, the DPAA accounted for 164 sets of remains, and in 2017, its first full fiscal



U.S. NATIONAL PARK SERVICE/Courtesy of DPAA

Divers conduct a mission for the Defense POW/MIA Accounting Agency to investigate the underwater wreckage of an aircraft located near the coast of Croatia in July 2017.

year, the number rose to 183. Europe's share last year was 31.

In the decade before the reorganization, on average, the DPAA was accounting for between 71 and 74 personnel worldwide each year, Brannigan said.

## Partnerships and technology

The DPAA is increasingly leaning on partnerships with universities and outside researchers to accomplish its mission, Kreitz said.

"Often, we have done the research or the analysis and it's simply they can come in and do the field operation for less money than we can," he said of partner agencies, many of which use volunteers or students to conduct fieldwork.

Three years ago, when the DPAA first began leveraging partnerships in Europe, it worked with two outside agencies. Last year, there were 12 and the number continues to grow, contingent on funding.

Globaly, the DPAA has about 600 staffers and employs 150 contractors, Brannigan said. In Europe, the staff during the past year has grown from three to eight. The office is seeking to add two regional experts who speak Italian and French to facilitate access in southeastern Europe, Brannigan said.

Authorities across Europe are mostly accommodating to DPAA requests for access to land — public or private — "but there is also frequently a sense of amazement that we are still pursuing the recovery of bones from a 75-year-old conflict," Brannigan said.

Also helping with identification efforts are technological advances in forensic science, Brannigan said, including the ability to sequence DNA and RNA molecules more quickly, more cheaply and more effectively.

For example, chest radiograph comparison, a recent development pioneered in the DPAA's laboratory under one of its former agencies, allows scientists to identify remains with a carbonbar, which is about

as distinctive as fingerprints, Brannigan said.

## Back to the drawing board

Of the more than 22,000 still missing across Europe, the Mediterranean and North Africa, about 8,000 are considered recoverable, Brannigan said. Most of the rest are deep-sea losses, he said.

In 2010, when the DPAA resumed accounting for World War II personnel, previous cases deemed nonrecoverable were put back on the books, Brannigan said.

The case of Bill Gray, the pilot who crashed in 1945 near Lindau, got a second look.

Army investigators in 1948 found only molten wreckage and some material evidence at Gray's crash site, which for years remained unreached because it was behind the communist Iron Curtain.

But in 2012, locals showed investigators where debris was recovered in a different part of the forest, Brannigan said. On the first day of digging in April 2016, a DPAA team found osseous remains in the roots of a beech tree.

There have been other successes. Last summer, the Woods Hole Oceanographic Institution in Massachusetts, in partnership with Lund University in Sweden and the U.S. National Park Service, did an excavation on behalf of the DPAA of a downed B-24J from World War II in the Adriatic Sea. The Croatian navy provided the ship and divers, who reached the underwater wreck at about 135 feet, Brannigan said.

As a result, 1st Lt. Eugene P. Ford's remains were identified in January.

The Europe Detachment also had a hand in the first and possibly only recovery of American remains in Ukraine from World War II. Second Lt. John Mumford was identified in January 2017. He was last



Gray



COURTESY OF MICHAEL ANTHONY/DPAA

A DPAA recovery team moves a tree stump at an excavation site near Lindau, Germany, in April 2016. The mission led to the recovery of missing World War II pilot 1st Lt. William "Bill" Gray Jr.

seen June 6, 1944, in a dogfight with two German Focke-Wulf FW-190 fighters near Kubey, Ukraine.

And in May, more than 74 years after his B-24 Liberator crashed over present-day Slovenia, the remains of Sgt. Alfonso Duran were identified.

As the push to account for more World War II missing bears fruit, Brannigan is sometimes asked whether the remains of these men otherwise would have been found.

"I guess they would have been (returned) eventually, but how many more decades or centuries?" Brannigan said.

"That, he said, begs another question:

"How long will this mission go on, because literally, to get through those 83,000 (still missing) globally, we'll be doing this at least another century."

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## MILITARY

## Damage causes late billing at Patch commissary

By JOHN VANDIVER  
*Stars and Stripes*

STUTTGART, Germany — Damaged data lines at the Patch Barracks commissary meant thousands of debit and credit card transactions had to be processed manually last month, resulting in late bank postings and billing confusion for some customers.

Data lines at the commissary were severed July 9 and were not

back up and running until July 21, the Defense Commissary Agency said.

That meant 3,100 card purchases were considered offline transactions, were put into a system hold file and then were keyed manually at DECA's Fort Lee, Va., headquarters.

"Because of the time it took to process these transactions, the card charges started to show up on

customers' accounts over the last week," Kevin Robinson, a DECA spokesman, said Thursday.

Another set of bank card transactions on July 20 was processed manually and initially was recorded as cash transactions.

On July 21, the data lines were restored and the transaction had to be reversed and then coded as credit or debit card transactions. That meant those customers could

see charges with processing dates of July 21 or later depending on their financial institutions.

"Last week, store personnel began to receive multiple calls and customers came in saying their accounts were erroneously charged or that they received alerts from their bank," Robinson said.

The store researched every transaction and informed custom-

ers of the items they purchased, the dates and the times, Robinson said. So far, about 60 customers have made inquiries. Robinson said "the probability of duplicate charges is low."

Customers who think they received duplicate charges may call customer service at (+49)(0)711 680-8401.

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## Senate OKs commissary access for more vets

By NIKKI WENTLING  
*Stars and Stripes*

WASHINGTON — The Senate approved a measure Wednesday that will allow more veterans to shop at discounted, on-base stores.

All Purple Heart and Medal of Honor recipients, former prisoners of war and veterans with disabilities connected to their military service, as well as veteran caregivers, would be eligible to shop at commissaries, according to the legislation.

The measure was included in the \$716 billion National Defense Authorization Act that the Senate approved by a vote of 87 to 10. The bill now will go to President Donald Trump for his signature.

"With my legislation set to become law, we will finally open up our commissaries to war heroes," said Sen. Brian Schatz, D-Hawaii, one of the senators behind the commissary measure.

Eligibility for commissaries is now limited to active-duty troops, members of the National Guard and the reserves, military retirees, family members and some veterans.

Schatz and Sen. John Boozman, R-Ark., urged the Senate last month to use the NDAA to expand commissary eligibility. They argued it could be a way to reverse declining revenues for the on-base stores.

"Expanding access to new patron groups promises to ensure long-term, sustainable access to commissary privilege — consistently ranked one of the most important non-cash compensation benefit[s] among servicemembers," they wrote at the time.

As of Nov. 11, 2017, the military began allowing all honorably discharged veterans to shop at online exchanges, increasing the benefit to nearly 20 million potential customers. The change didn't apply to brick-and-mortar stores.

In addition to allowing more veterans to use on-base commissaries and exchanges, the measure will enable them to access lodging facilities that fall under military Morale, Welfare and Recreation services.

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DAVID MOSLEY/Courtesy of the U.S. Coast Guard

The Coast Guard cutter Polar Star, with 75,000 horsepower and weighing 13,500 tons, was designed more than 40 years ago.

## Officials rip plan to move ship funds to border wall

By SCOTT WYLAND  
*Stars and Stripes*

Democratic lawmakers worried about growing Russian and Chinese competition in the Arctic have criticized the Department of Homeland Security's decision to free up money for a U.S.-Mexico border wall by reallocating \$750 million that had been earmarked for a polar icebreaker.

The U.S. icebreaker fleet is minuscule compared with Russia's, which has more than 40 icebreakers, according to the Congressional Research Service. The melting ice has degraded Russia's natural border defenses, prompting Moscow to respond with more ships and new military facilities in the region.

Recently, Russia has raised alarms by declaring plans to expand its Arctic domain.

"Russia has claimed natural resources and territories in the Arctic that exceed its international rights and is investing in ice-capable military assets to back up that claim," a letter signed last week by eight House lawmakers said.

China, which has no territorial claim in the Arctic but considers itself a stakeholder, has two heavy icebreakers and plans to acquire more.

Various nations are eyeing the Arctic region with greater interest as ice caps melt, which is opening up access for military, commercial and research vessels. But even as the ice caps weaken and shrink, ships must still carve out passageways.

The Arctic region is believed to hold an estimated 13 percent of the world's untapped oil reserves, 30 percent of its natural gas and vast mineral resources, according to U.S. Geological Survey estimates.

The new icebreaker had been intended to boost the Coast Guard's fleet, which includes one working heavy icebreaker, the Polar Star, and one disabled heavy icebreaker, each of which has exceeded its 30-year service life. The fleet also operates a medium icebreaker and a research vessel with light ice-breaking capability.

The Senate tentatively approved \$750 million in February to build the new heavy icebreaker.

But Homeland Security stripped the funding from its most recent budget proposal, allocating it instead to the proposed border wall. The move prompted the letter from lawmakers, who said the agency sought to cut Coast Guard funding "while wasting a staggering \$4.9 billion on a border wall."

"We urge you in the strongest possible

terms to reconsider the misallocation of resources, which would undermine all 11 of the Coast Guard's statutory missions and place our nation at a distinct economic, geopolitical and national security disadvantage for decades to come," the letter said.

In 2013, Homeland Security recommended building three new heavy icebreakers and three medium ones, but no money has been allocated for those vessels.

If funded in this budget cycle, the new heavy icebreaker would not enter service until 2023. Coast Guard officials said they don't want any additional delays.

"We need that ship now," Coast Guard commandant Adm. Karl Schultz said Wednesday during a speech in Washington.

The Arctic had been the scene of intense military activity for the U.S. and the Soviet Union, but both countries mostly withdrew from the region when the Cold War ended.

The Arctic Council was formed in 1996 and now has eight countries with territory abutting the region — the U.S., Russia, Norway, Sweden, Finland, Canada, Denmark and Iceland.

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## WAR/MILITARY

## Report: Cost to dismantle nuclear carrier is \$1B

By CLAUDIA GRISALES  
*Stars and Stripes*

WASHINGTON — It could cost more than \$1 billion to dismantle the Navy's first nuclear-powered aircraft carrier, the former USS Enterprise, according to the Government Accountability Office, an investigative arm for Congress that routinely reviews U.S. agencies and programs.

The GAO estimate was unveiled as the Navy is assessing its options to dismantle and dispose of the carrier, which has been inactive since 2012 and was decommissioned in 2017 after more than 50 years of service.

The carrier's "dismantlement and disposal will set precedents for processes and oversight that may inform future aircraft carrier dismantlement decisions," the GAO report said in a 56-page report released Thursday.

The GAO wrote that it found the Navy's typical budget and reporting on the effort doesn't



CAT CAMPBELL/Courtesy of the U.S. Navy  
The former USS Enterprise sits pierside at Newport News Shipbuilding following its decommissioning in February 2017.

give enough information to support oversight for a project of this size and cost. A Senate report accompanying the National Defense Authorization Act for fiscal year 2018 included a provision for the

GAO to review the Navy's plans for the former carrier.

In its report, the GAO made four recommendations, including that the Navy take action to provide additional budget information and

reporting to facilitate improved transparency and accountability. It also recommended the Navy obtain an independent cost estimate, complete a risk management assessment prior to the beginning of the project and approve a cost and schedule plan.

The Defense Department agreed with all four recommendations.

"I would like to commend the GAO in the thoroughness of this review," Kevin Fahey, the assistant secretary of defense for acquisition, wrote in a July 19 letter in response to the report. "This is a complex topic that has not been previously addressed."

Among its options, the Navy could go the commercial industry route to dismantle and dispose of the carrier, which could be beneficial for the service, according to the GAO. However, the Navy and the Nuclear Regulatory Commission, which oversees the commercial nuclear industry, have yet to coordinate to fully explore the option, the agency said in its report.

The GAO wrote in the report that lawmakers should consider legislative action that would require the coordination.

"Coordination between the two agencies ... would help ensure accountability, solidify cost estimates, and facilitate" a decision, the GAO said. "We suggested that Congress consider action to resolve this."

The carrier was deployed during the Cuban missile crisis in 1962 and saw action in conflicts ranging from the Vietnam War to the war in Afghanistan. It made its final port stop in Naples, Italy, in 2012 before setting sail for its homeport, Norfolk, Va., to be broken down.

"This ship has served its time," then-Rear Adm. Walter Carter, commander of the Enterprise Carrier Strike Group, told Stars and Stripes at the time. "It's time to retire."

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## Suicide bomber kills 3 Czech soldiers in Afghanistan

By PHILLIP WALTER WELLMAN  
*Stars and Stripes*

KABUL, Afghanistan — Three Czech soldiers were killed by a suicide bomber in eastern Afghanistan on Sunday in an attack that also injured one American and two Afghan troops, officials said.

The suicide bomber attacked a foot patrol of coalition forces in the capital of Parwan province about 10 miles from Bagram Air

Field — around 6 a.m., a spokeswoman for the provincial governor told Stars and Stripes.

The Czech military later confirmed the three fatalities were all from the Czech Republic but did not immediately identify them. The country's defense minister, Lubomir Metnar, offered his condolences.

The troops were on a patrol with Afghan forces when they were attacked, according to a statement by NATO's Resolute Support

mission.

It said one American and two Afghan soldiers were injured in the blast, but did not specify their conditions.

The Taliban claimed responsibility for the attack, which it said targeted "American invaders." No civilians were injured, the governor's office said.

"My thoughts and prayers, along with those of all of the 41 Resolute Support members, go to the families and friends of our fallen and

wounded servicemembers, and our injured Afghan brothers and their families," said U.S. Army Gen. John Nicholson, Resolute Support and U.S. Forces-Afghanistan commander. "Their sacrifice on behalf of the Afghan people and our coalition will endure in both our hearts and history, and further strengthen our resolve."

Sunday's attack doubles the number of coalition deaths in Afghanistan this year. The previous three servicemembers killed in

2018 were all American. The Czech Republic recently agreed to station 390 soldiers in Afghanistan through 2020, up from the current 230, as part of the NATO-led Resolute Support mission.

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## Judge tosses suit seeking to block base relocation

By MATTHEW M. BURKE  
*Stars and Stripes*

CAMP FOSTER, Okinawa — A U.S. district court judge has thrown out a lawsuit brought by environmental groups looking to block Marine Corps Air Station Futenma's relocation within Okinawa because of an endangered species.

The Defense Department has adequately studied and considered the impacts that a new runway into Oura Bay at Camp Schwab would have on the Okinawan dugong, according to a ruling Wednesday by Judge Edward Chen, of the Northern District of California.

The elusive marine mammal, which is a cousin to the manatee, is known to live in waters off the southern island prefecture.

The plaintiffs — the Arizona-based Center for Biological Diversity and a consortium of U.S. and Japanese environmental groups and individuals — filed the suit in 2003, claiming that the U.S. government pursued Futenma's relocation without considering "its potential adverse effects" on the dugong.

As a result, the Defense Department commissioned and consulted a variety of reports regarding the endangered animal, its biological and cultural well-being and Japanese environmental impact



Courtesy of Pixabay

A lawsuit brought by environmental groups looking to block Marine Corps Air Station Futenma's relocation on Okinawa due to the endangered dugong marine mammal was tossed by a judge.

statements.

The plaintiffs responded by accusing the U.S. government of failing to consult environmental groups, "cultural practitioners, local and Okinawa government officials," and failing to alert the plaintiffs that such a process was underway, the ruling said.

Chen rejected that argument, writing that the Defense Department had considered "both direct impacts on the dugong's cultural significance and indirect impact that could result from biological harm."

Peter Galvin, director of programs at the Center for Biological Diversity in Tucson, Ariz., told The Associated Press on Thursday that the ruling was "wrong" and would be overturned on appeal.

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## Marine tied to rally violence out of military

CAMP LEJEUNE, N.C. — A U.S. Marine identified as a member of a white supremacist group involved in violence during last summer's white nationalist rally in Charlottesville, Va., is out of the military after being convicted at a court-martial.

The Daily News of Jacksonville, N.C., reported Lance Cpl. Vasiliios Pistolis was kicked out of the Marine Corps last month after serving a jail sentence at Camp Lejeune.

Marine Corps Headquarters spokesman Maj. Brian Block said membership in extremist or hate groups violates core values.

Pistolis did not return a telephone message Sunday seeking comment. Marine Corps spokesmen did not respond to emailed messages on Saturday.

ProPublica and Frontline PBS reported in May that Pistolis was a member of a neo-Nazi group and bragged about violence he committed in Charlottesville in August 2017.

From The Associated Press

## MILITARY

# DEA inaction on licensing of pot slows PTSD study

BY NIKKI WENTLING  
*Stars and Stripes*

WASHINGTON — In the final months of President Barack Obama's administration, the Drug Enforcement Agency announced it would license more growers to produce marijuana for scientific research — a decision that was meant to facilitate research into the drug.

Nearly two years later, federal authorities haven't approved or denied any applications. The lack of action has the potential to thwart the next step in a first-of-its-kind study into marijuana's effects on veterans with post-traumatic stress disorder, researchers said.

"Until the DEA licenses other growers for research, we'll continue to be stuck in limbo, not able to do what the medical community has been demanding," said Sue Sisley, the principal investigator for the study.

Sisley, along with the Multidisciplinary Association for Psychedelic Studies, or MAPS, struggled for years to gain federal approvals to launch the study, which tests different potencies of marijuana on veterans. It's now been underway for more than a year, and last week, Sisley enrolled the 70th participant of the 76 veterans it requires.

The study, based at the Scottsdale Research Institute in Phoenix, is on track to enter its next phase in spring 2019, at which point it will need a new marijuana supplier.

The National Institute on Drug Abuse — the only federally approved source for marijuana — is providing marijuana for

the study now. However, NIDA, a government research institute, is allowed only to provide marijuana for academic research, not commercial sales, which would be necessary for the next phase of the study, said Brad Burge, communications director for MAPS.

The U.S. Food and Drug Administration requires Phase 3 trials to be conducted with the same product that would be commercially available if the trials proved marijuana safely and effectively treated PTSD.

"Until the NIDA monopoly ends, no domestically approved marijuana can ever be made into an FDA-approved medicine," Burge wrote in an email.

Moreover, Sisley said, the quality of marijuana provided by the National Institute on Drug Abuse so far has been of a lower quality than desired.

"There really is no study drug for Phase 3, bottom line," she said.

When the DEA began accepting applications for more growers, the Scottsdale Research Institute and MAPS applied. Neither has heard a response to their application.

Now, as the two-year mark of the DEA's decision nears, the researchers are preparing to fight.

"Two years is way too long," Burge said.

Eight senators — five Democrats and three Republicans — sent a letter to Attorney General Jeff Sessions recently urging the DEA to finish reviewing the applications. The senators wrote they knew at least 26 applications for licenses had been submitted.

"Our nation's need for meaningful, federally sanctioned research



PHOTOS BY NIKKI WENTLING/Stars and Stripes

Air Force veteran Ryan Reese explains how marijuana is grown inside a cultivation facility in Phoenix in May 2017. Reese, who helped establish the facility, uses marijuana to treat chronic pain.



Marijuana grows from a nutrient-rich cube in 2017 inside a cultivation facility at Westgate Industrial Center in Phoenix.

is critical," they wrote. "Research and medical communities should have access to research-grade materials to answer questions

around marijuana's efficacy and potential impacts, both positive and adverse. Finalizing the review of applications for marijuua-

na manufacturing will assist in doing just that."

The senators asked Sessions to officially begin two years since the DEA announced it intended to license more growers.

The senators who signed the letter are Sens. Brian Schatz, D-Hawaii; Chuck Grassley, R-Iowa; Corey Gardner, R-Colo.; Kirsten Gillibrand, D-N.Y.; Amy Klobuchar, D-Minn.; Christopher Coons, D-Del.; Orrin Hatch, R-Utah; and Tim Kaine, D-Va.

The Justice Department did not respond to a request for comment.

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## Americans, Germans celebrate culture at Volksfest at Grafenwoehr

BY MARTIN EGNAH  
*Stars and Stripes*

GRAFENWOEHR, Germany — The U.S. Army hosted the 60th annual German-American Volksfest this past weekend at Grafenwoehr.

More than 150,000 soldiers and their families, but mostly Germans, were expected to attend the biggest German-American celebration in the country through Sunday, Army officials said.

The festival melds both American and German traditions. In one tent, festivalgoers can listen to American pop music, eat BBQ ribs and drink light beer, and in a nearby German-style beer hall tent, they can listen to a Bavarian Oompah Band, eat giant pretzels and sip German beer.

The festival has rides, games and static displays. German locals can get an up-close look at U.S. Army tanks and vehicles on display in one of the few opportunities to go "behind the curtain" and see what the U.S. military in their community is like.

"Members of the U.S. Army strive to be good neighbors and positive role models within this community," said Nathan Van Schaik, an Army spokesman.

"Servicemembers — [Defense Department] employees and their families participate in local events and organizations, so we hope our German neighbors come out and enjoy the 60th German-American Volksfest," said Van Schaik.

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Germans and Americans, some wearing lederhosen, attend the German-American Volksfest on Friday in Grafenwoehr, Germany.

MARTIN EGNAH  
Stars and Stripes

## PACIFIC

# RIMPAC drill focused on US military rivals

By WYATT OLSON  
*Stars and Stripes*

**FORT SHAFTER, Hawaii —** The monthlong Rim of the Pacific naval exercise, which concluded Thursday, reflected an emphasis on traditional warfighting drills as America refocuses its strategy on military competition with China and Russia.

"The U.S. has been working to incorporate into RIMPAC more substantial anti-submarine warfare, surface warfare and amphibious warfare operations, and this year they were able to do that," said Bryan Clark, a senior fellow at the Washington-based think tank Center for Strategic and Budgetary Assessments.

"RIMPAC this year was very much in line with the [Trump] administration's focus on great power competition," said Clark, a former Navy officer who helped the service develop new operational strategies.

In unveiling the Pentagon's updated National Defense Policy in January, Defense Secretary Jim Mattis said, "We will continue to prosecute the campaign against terrorists that we are engaged in today, but great power competition, not terrorism, is now the primary focus of U.S. national security."

The shift was manifested in RIMPAC by the Pentagon's announcement in May that China's invitation to participate in the exercise had been rescinded because of its militarization of islets in the South China Sea. Instead, navy personnel from Israel, Sri Lanka, Brazil and Vietnam were invited to attend for the first time.

China participated in RIMPAC in 2014 and 2016, sending five ships and about 1,200 personnel two years ago.

"In the new geopolitical chess game, Vietnam — along with Indonesia and India — has emerged as a key swing state that's being courted by the United States given its strategic location along the



Courtesy of the U.S. Navy

**Sailors load a Harpoon anti-ship cruise missile onto the fast-attack submarine USS Olympia at Pearl Harbor, Hawaii, during the Rim of the Pacific exercise July 3.**

vital sea lanes and a 1,000-year-long history of resisting China's southward territorial expansion," said Mohan Malik, a China expert at the Asia-Pacific Center for Security Studies in Honolulu.

"The significance of the RIMPAC disinvite to China and invite to Vietnam clearly signals that China's ongoing militarization of the artificial islands is unacceptable and that Washington is no longer a mute or neutral bystander in the region."

China's ships had not been involved in warfighting drills in previous exercises, participating instead in disaster relief and medical response activities.

## The drills

This year's RIMPAC included two separate ship-sinking exercises. Firing at the stripped-down USS Racine — a tank-landing ship — on July 12 were planes, helicopters, missiles and rockets operated by the Army and Air

Force and the Japan Self-Defense Force.

The test was commanded by the Army's Multi-Domain Task Force set up for RIMPAC, and it was the first time the Army had fired a naval strike missile at a ship at sea.

The Los Angeles-class attack submarine USS Olympia launched Harpoon anti-ship cruise missiles at the two target ships, marking the first time in 20 years Harpoons have been fired from an American submarine.

"We shot the Harpoon, which worked perfectly, went into cruise, and hit the decommissioned ex-USS Racine ... dead center," Rear Adm. Daryl Caule, commander of U.S. Pacific Fleet's Submarine Force, said in a statement Thursday.

He said the successful firing will lead to the reintroduction of the Harpoon system on the submarine fleet to expand its lethality and capabilities.

"Today's highly capable navies

and adversary countries — the competitive countries that we are in power competition — have extremely good surface ships with very capable missile systems themselves," Caule said.

Overall, RIMPAC was a chance for the 25 participating nations to test out their vessels and crews amid a larger fleet.

The Royal Australian Navy brought the HMAS Adelaide, one of its two new ultra-modern amphibious-landing ships.

"We're on a trajectory to grow our amphibious capabilities," RAN Commodore Ivan Ingham, who was in charge of that nation's forces at the exercise, told Stars and Stripes in July.

"To put it simply, we've spent a number of years making sure that the platform is fit for purpose and capable of entering into service," he said.

For the past couple of years, the RAN has been integrating the two ships with the nation's land forces and aircraft, he added.

"RIMPAC gives us the opportunity to take our amphibious capability beyond Australia," he said, adding that the exercise was a chance for "having our amphibious capabilities plugged into a larger force."

That meant bringing U.S. Marines, aircraft and vehicles aboard the Adelaide for a number of amphibious assaults.

## Some glitches

The month was not without its problems.

"We had some weather systems and other realities, such as the second [target] ship being sunk earlier than expected, that impacted our ability to complete all our training according to the plan, but that is also the great part about RIMPAC," said Royal Canadian Navy Rear Adm. Bob Auchterlonie, who served as deputy commander of the exercise's combined task force.

"We adjusted plans and drafted new ones in order to ensure each nation got the training value they expected from RIMPAC 2018," he said.

Mechanical problems sidelined two U.S. amphibious assault ships, including the USS Bonhomme Richard, which had been set to lead a series of amphibious assaults, USNI News reported Wednesday. The ship "spent the second half of the exercise tied to a pier in Pearl Harbor," the report said.

The USS Boxer never even made it to the portion of RIMPAC being held in Southern California.

It had been set to host Mexican, Canadian, U.S. and Brazilian forces for an amphibious landing exercise, and Brazil canceled participation in RIMPAC as a result, USNI reported.

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## Morning grouchiness a way of life for RIMPAC Marines

By MARCUS FICHTL  
*Stars and Stripes*

**POAHAKULOA TRAINING AREA, Hawaii —** The military likes to boast we do more before 9 a.m. than most people do all day."

That sounds better at the recruiting office than at 6 in the morning when you're wet and cold in a training area that's 6,000 feet above sea level.

When the sun rose over Hawaii's Big Island last month during the 25-nation Rim of the Pacific exercise, members of Company B, 1st Battalion, 3rd Marine Regiment emerged from cocoon-like sleeping bags like angry butterflies filling the air with swear words and bad jokes. Overnight rain had drenched everything except spots in the lava-dirt where the Marines slept.

Early morning grouchiness is a way of life, said Pfc. Miguelangel Vasquez, 19, of Victorville, Calif.

"We complain 100 percent of the time," he said as he pulled on his boots with the help of a fellow "boot," as new Marines are called.

While the early risers shaved near lava rocks, trucks showed up from base camp with hot chow. A group fired leftover rounds downrange and other Marines prepared more ammunition for the day's training.

Several Marines ripped off their shirts to show off "motivational" tattoos inked on their left shoulders a few months back at Twenty-nine Palms, Calif.

"We did some of the hardest ranges the Marine Corps has to offer and decided to treat ourselves with globe-and-anchor tattoos," said Pfc. Travis Stiles, 20, of Queensbury, N.Y.

Then it was time for the privates and lance corporals to grab chow, served per tradition by officers and senior noncommissioned officers.

The troops rated the food "better than an



MARCUS FICHTL/Stars and Stripes

**Marines step off at Pohakuloa Training Area, Hawaii, on July 18. See more photos from RIMPAC at [www.stripes.com/go/rimpac](http://www.stripes.com/go/rimpac)**

MRE," but a few opted for an alternative breakfast of energy drinks and cigarettes.

The last chore of the morning involved infantrymen picking up hundreds of shell casings at range-firing points — the Marines' version of 52-card pickup.

Then — almost exactly at 9 a.m. — they headed off in full battle rattle and weapons slung to the next range, with smiles but the same bad jokes and the same complaining.

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# VETERANS

## Texas: Vets credit military teachings in getting business up and running quickly

### FROM FRONT PAGE

"There are a lot of perceptions about Texas," Campbell said. "As a brand, people think of Texas as being the star and red, white and blue and spurs and cowboy hats. People who live in Texas, we know it's much more nuanced and cool and romantic."

"We wanted to tell this story of west Texas and the plant and its relationship to that and how interesting it is. It's the story of Texas that Texans know but we don't feel has truly been communicated."

The three men met in fall 2015 at the start of their coursework at the University of Texas at Austin's executive MBA program. During a class called "New Venture Creations," they came together to work on a project.

For their project, the men first looked into lofty inventions involving drones or multimillion-dollar prototypes.

"Brent and I had these ideas to try and save the world," Campbell said.

Kaufman, 36, a former Navy SEAL sniper who spent eight years in the service, however, suggested they have a little more fun, and research the craft brewing and spirits industries. Though he was raised in the east Texas town of Longview, the sixth-generation Texan recalled visiting his uncle in west Texas. During hunting trips, he learned about native plants, including how "old-timers" made moonshine from sotol or "desert spoon," but it always tasted terrible.

The three began researching the plant, learning about cave drawings dating back 10,000 years of people using self-fermented sotol plants as an intoxicant during ceremonies.

For thousands of years, people of the region have used the plant for sustenance and to create tools, which inspired the "desert spoon" nickname, since its leaves can be dried into a spoon shape. It is considered by some to be a desert seed because of how quickly and commonly it pops up in the Chihuahuan Desert, which explains why ancient civilizations would have relied so heavily on it.

"We fell in love with that and then thought, 'Well, what if we can make it taste good?'" said Campbell, who calls himself a Texan by choice. "We hopped in the car and drove out to west Texas, cut down the first sotol plant we saw and brought it back to my kitchen and we started cooking it in my house nine days every Sunday."

It all tasted terrible and took so much work for such a little amount of product, said Looby, 48, a Marine Corps pilot who served 20 years and retired in 2017 as a lieutenant colonel.

"But we really tried to rationalize it was good," said the Midland native and fifth-generation Texan. They didn't give up, and six months later they felt they finally had something they could proudly serve and the class project grew into a full-fledged business con-

cept. By their May 2017 graduation, the future home of Desert Door was in the design phase; it officially opened in November.

"I'd say we used more skills from the military than we did our business degree," Campbell said — whether during early planning meetings, understanding each other's work ethics or having a shared understanding of military language and common practices.

"Because we have shared values (from the military) is probably the cornerstone of that, but there's the trust that was already there," Looby said.

In that time, they've secured sale of their blue-bottled spirit in two major Texas liquor stores — Specs and Twin Liquors — and are on about 40 bar menus, mostly in Austin. Desert Door is available only in Texas right now, and the owners don't see themselves reaching beyond their home state anytime soon.

"If you can't sell the first uniquely Texas spirit to Texans, you got no business going anywhere else," Campbell said.

Jake Maddux, a Marine Corps veteran and founder of the Austin restaurant the Brewer's Table, has added Desert Door to his bar menu.

"It's different and unique," he said. "It's a good product made by veterans and it's local."

### Transformative'

Others in the industry have praised how quickly the veterans were able to get Desert Door up and running, Kaufman credits the military for their efficiency.

"The military teaches you time management," he said. Aside from efficiency, Kaufman said they all share an idea of "what makes an organization healthy and what works well."

"People don't give the military credit," Kaufman said. "No one has spent more time or money figuring out how to make a team function highly than the military has. One reason we moved so fast is because we understand how to build a team from the ground up."

Outside of Desert Door, Kaufman's full-time job is running Exbellum, a company he founded to help Special Forces veterans market themselves and gain meaningful civilian employment.

"When I got out of the Navy, I wanted to get into business," he said. "I had a lot of opportunities to come in at an entry level role. I'd just spent a decade in one of highest performing organizations in the world; I don't need to start at entry-level position."

"The reality is hiring managers

**'The reality is hiring managers ... couldn't understand the value I could bring to the table, and I couldn't articulate that.'**

**Judson Kauffman**

former Navy SEAL sniper



Courtesy of John Davidson

From left, Brent Looby, Judson Kauffman and Ryan Campbell are in a trailer filled with sotol plant hearts. The veterans use the sotol plant in making a unique Texan liquor.



ROSE L. THAYER/Stars and Stripes

**A sotol plant grows along the roadside near Desert Door Distillery in Driftwood, Texas, on July 16.**

ers and human resources people couldn't understand the value I could bring to the table, and I couldn't articulate that."

He channeled that passion into a problem-solving business and launched Exbellum in 2012.

"It's important to me personally because I'm attached to the community the military provided me," he said. "PTSD is often cited for veterans having a hard time transitioning, but I think it has more to do with a deep emotional sense of purpose that gets flipped off like a light switch. We don't realize how much of that void the mission is filling."

Over time, Kaufman said more nonprofits have been created and are doing a good job helping veterans in the way his company did. The veteran unemployment rate has also declined dramatically, from about 23 percent to less than 4 percent, he said. These days, Exbellum is doing more consulting than recruiting.

"If more people become consumers of our product instead of a product that uses very heavily watered and fertilized farmland, it's a better use of Earth's resources this way," he said.

While the process is heavily guarded for proprietary reasons, Desert Door sotol calls for only three ingredients: wild sotol, yeast

### That blue bottle

At Desert Door, Kaufman handles most of the sales and marketing. Campbell manages the business and financials, and Looby does more of the day-to-day operations and production at the distillery and tasting room in Driftwood. The tasting room was important because the men wanted to educate the public on sotol and its history.

"We want it to be a transporting experience," Looby said of the tasting room, decorated in modern west Texas style that recalls visits to arts-driven Marfa. The tasting room presents primarily in brown and tans, with bold patterned throw pillows, wooden bar stools and a matching bar top.

"When you're sipping on Desert Door, everything that is this brand, across all functions of this business, is all in direct support of that little blue bottle," Looby said. "So, when you're here, as sipping on it and tasting, we want this to be reminiscent of a west Texas experience."

All their plants are harvested in the wild in west Texas near the town of Marathon. They leave the root structure intact, and are looking to get U.S. Department of Agriculture grants to see what this technique means for the sustainability and regrowth of the plant, Looby said.

"We're taking and bringing value to a weed," Campbell said. "By what we are doing, we are taking a plant that grows naturally and bringing value to it."

"If more people become consumers of our product instead of a product that uses very heavily watered and fertilized farmland, it's a better use of Earth's resources this way," he said.

While the process is heavily guarded for proprietary reasons, Desert Door sotol calls for only three ingredients: wild sotol, yeast

and purified natural Texas water. It's sold in two varieties: clear, which retails at \$55 a bottle and is best for cocktails; and a brown liquor aged in white oak barrels for sipping, which will be available later this year for market price and already has a long waiting list. The taste is herbaceous with a little smoke, and a hint of floral mint and sweetness. The clear version can sub easily in a cocktail mean for tequila, vodka or gin. Looby said the aged version makes a fantastic old-fashioned, replacing its bourbon.

### 'Just dive in'

It's been rewarding to meet veterans who come out to the tasting room, Campbell said.

One day shortly after opening, Kaufman recalled, a young man came into the tasting room and hung out until the end of the night. When business died down, he approached Kaufman to tell him he was in the military and debating whether to re-enlist.

"He said, 'I'm inspired and encouraged by your success here. It's given me a lot of reason to believe I can go and do whatever I want,'" Kaufman said. "That was neat. He was really touched by this whole thing."

This, he said, brings him back to what he sees in the transitioning Special Forces guys he met through Exbellum — the moment they realize the military has given them the skills they need to go into any civilian career.

"If you're thoughtful and paying attention, you can apply what you've been taught to virtually anything," he said. "Once they commit to something, they tend to outperform their peers who didn't serve in the military."

"I think that's because of the training the military put in them. Where guys and girls may falter or feel unequal is when they're at the bottom of mountain looking up thinking, 'I don't know anything about alcohol industry.' I encourage them to take that leap and get into it. Just dive in and get to work."

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## NATION



JOHN RUDOFF/AP

Counterprotesters prepare to clash with Patriot Prayer protesters during a rally in Portland, Ore., on Saturday.

## Scuffles occur during Ore. right-wing rally

BY MANUEL VALDES  
AND GILLIAN FLACCUS  
Associated Press

**PORTLAND, Ore.** — Small scuffles broke out Saturday as police in Portland deployed "flash bang" devices and other means to disperse hundreds of right-wing and self-described anti-fascist protesters.

Four people were arrested during the protests, the Portland Police Bureau said in a statement Saturday night. Officers also seized "multiple weapons throughout the day," police said.

A reporter for The Oregonian/OregonLive was bloodied when he was struck by a projectile. Eder Campuzano said later on Twitter he was "okay."

Demonstrators aligned with Patriot Prayer and an affiliated group, the Proud Boys, gathered around midday in a riverfront park.

Hundreds of demonstrators faced them from across the street, holding banners and signs with opposition messages such as "Alt right scum not welcome in Portland." Some chanted, "Nazis go home."

Officers stood in the middle of the four-lane boulevard, essentially forming a wall to keep the two sides separated.

The counterprotesters were made up of a coalition of labor unions, immigrant rights advocates, democratic socialists and other groups. They included people dressed as clowns and a brass band blaring music.

The rally organized by Patriot Prayer leader Joey Gibson was the third to roll Portland this summer. Two previous events ended in bloody fistfights and riots, and one counterprotester was sent to the hospital with a skull fracture.

This time, Gibson changed the venue from a federal plaza outside U.S. District Court to a waterfront park so some of his Oregon supporters could carry concealed weapons as they demonstrate.

Gibson disputed the group's

classification by some as a hate group.

"We're here to promote freedom and God. That's it," Gibson told Portland TV station KGW while walking with demonstrators. "Our country is getting soft."

Protesters saw a significant police presence that included bomb-sniffing dogs and weapons screening checkpoints. In a statement, police said weapons may be seized if there is a violation of law and added that it is illegal in Portland to carry a loaded firearm in public unless a person has a valid Oregon concealed handgun license.

Among the things police confiscated were long sticks and homemade shields.

Just before 2 p.m., police in riot gear ordered people to leave an area downtown, saying demonstrators had thrown rocks and bottles at officers.

"Get out of the street," police announced via loudspeaker.

Gibson's insistence on bringing his supporters repeatedly to this liberal city has crystallized a debate about the limits of free speech in an era of stark political division. Patriot Prayer also has held rallies in many other cities around the U.S. West, including Berkeley, Calif., that have drawn violent reactions.

But the Portland events have taken on outsized significance after a Patriot Prayer sympathizer was charged with fatally stabbing two men who came to the defense of two young black women — one in a hijab — whom the attacker was accused of harassing on a light-rail train in May 2017.

Gibson, who is running a long-shot campaign to unseat Democratic U.S. Sen. Maria Cantwell, of Washington state, said in a live video on Facebook last week that he won't stop bringing his followers to Portland until they can express their right-wing views without interference.

# Brown seeks wildfire aid as Calif. battles 17 blazes

BY PAUL ELIAS  
Associated Press

**SAN FRANCISCO** — Gov. Jerry Brown on Saturday called on President Donald Trump to help California fight and recover from another devastating wildfire season.

Brown, who inspected neighborhoods wiped out by a wildfire in the Northern California city of Redding, said he was confident the president he has clashed with over immigration and pollution policies would send aid, which Trump did last year when California's wine country was hit hard.

"The president has been pretty good on helping us in disasters, so I'm hopeful," said Brown, a Democrat. "Tragedies bring people together."

Brown's call for help came shortly before authorities called on residents in Glenn and Colusa counties in Northern California to evacuate as a fire there continues to grow.

Cal Fire issued the evacuation order Saturday night for people who live in several parts of the counties, including an area just east of the boundary of Mendocino National Forest and all areas west of Bear Valley Road to Highway 20.

There are 17 major fires burning throughout California, authorities said.

In all, they have destroyed hundreds of homes, killed eight people — including four firefighters — and shut down Yosemite National Park.

Hundreds of colleagues, family and friends attended a memorial service Saturday in Fresno for National Forest Service Capt. Brian Hughes, who was killed July 29 by a falling tree while fighting the wildfire that has closed Yosemite National Park at the height of tourist season.

Firefighters have achieved 41 percent containment of that forest fire.

The fire had reached into remote areas of the country's third-oldest national park. Workers who live in Yosemite's popular Valley region were ordered to leave Friday because of inaccessible roads.

The biggest blazes continue to burn north of San Francisco, in-



CRAIG KOHLHUSSEN, THE FRESNO (CALIF.) BEE/AP

**Fresno, Calif.**, firefighters watch as a procession from agencies around the state moves through Fresno on Saturday to honor Capt. Brian Hughes, a member of the Arrowhead Interagency Hotshot Crew who died fighting a wildfire near Yosemite National Park.

cluding twin wildfires fueled by dry vegetation and hot, windy weather. Those fires destroyed 53 homes and forced thousands of residents to flee their neighborhoods about 100 miles north of the city. They have grown to a combined 300 square miles.

The two fires have charred an area of the forested, rural area five times the size of San Francisco and were only 27 percent contained. Thousands of people remain evacuated.

The National Weather Service issued red flag warnings of critical fire weather conditions through Saturday night, saying a series of dry low-pressure systems passing through the region could bring wind gusts of up to 35 mph that could turn small fires or even sparks into racing walls of flames.

"This is a particularly dangerous situation with extremely low humidity and high winds. New fires will grow rapidly out of control, in some cases people may not be able to evacuate safely in time should a fire approach," the weather service said in its bulletin for the Mendocino area north

of San Francisco.

Meteorologist Steve Anderson said temperatures will remain in the 90s in the region throughout the week, with wind gusts reaching 25 mph during the day Sunday.

"It's not good firefighting weather," Anderson said.

More evacuations were ordered Saturday afternoon for an area of Mendocino and Lake counties where the week-old twin fires are threatening about 9,000 homes. The largest of the two fires was 50 percent contained.

The fire remained several miles from the evacuated communities along the eastern shore of Clear Lake, but "it looks like there's dicey weather on the way," California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection spokeswoman Jane LaBoa said.

However, most evacuations were lifted by Saturday in and around Redding, where armies of firefighters and fleets of aircraft continue battling an immense wildfire about 100 miles south of the Oregon line. Some areas on the fire's southeastern flank were reopened to residents.

## Man charged with pushing boy from waterslide

Associated Press

**APPLE VALLEY, Minn.** — A Minnesota man is facing a criminal assault charge after he was accused of pushing an 8-year-old boy off the top of a waterslide.

Authorities say the boy fell nearly 32 feet to the concrete below and suffered multiple fractures at the Apple Valley Aquatic Center on Tuesday.

Roman Adams, 18, is charged with felony third-

degree assault.

He's been released from jail ahead of a court appearance next month.

A criminal complaint said Adams and the boy were waiting in line to ride down the waterslide. It said that once they reached the top platform, Adams picked up the boy and pushed him over the railing.

Apple Valley Capt. Nick Francis said police believe the man may be developmentally delayed, but knew his actions would cause harm to the boy.

## NATION

# Trump confirms point of meeting with Russian

By JONATHAN LEMIRE  
Associated Press

BRIDGEWATER, N.J. — President Donald Trump on Sunday acknowledged that the 2016 Trump Tower meeting between a Kremlin-connected lawyer and his son was to collect information about his political opponent, casting new light on a moment central to the special counsel's Russia probe.

Trump, amid a series of searing tweets sent from his New Jersey golf club, tore into two of his favorite targets — the news media and Robert Mueller's ongoing investigation into possible links between the president's campaign and Russia. Trump unleashed particular fury at reports that he was anxious about the Trump Tower meeting attended by Donald Trump Jr. and other senior campaign officials.

"Fake News reporting, a complete fabrication, that I am concerned about the meeting my wonderful son, Donald, had in Trump Tower," Trump wrote. "This was a meeting to get information on an opponent, totally legal and done all the time in politics - and it went nowhere. I did not know about it!"

But 13 months ago, Trump gave a far different explanation for the meeting. A July 2017 statement dictated by the president read: "We primarily discussed a program about the adoption of Russian children that was active and popular with American families years ago."

Since then, the story about the meeting has changed several times, eventually forced by the discovery of emails between the president's eldest son and an intermediary from the Russian government offering damaging information about Trump's opponent, Hillary Clinton. Betraying no surprise or misgivings about the offer from a hostile foreign power, Donald Trump Jr. replied, "It's what you say, I love it, especially later in the summer."

Sunday's tweet was Trump's clearest statement yet on the purpose of the meeting, which has become a focal point of Mueller's investigation even as the president and his lawyers try to downplay its significance and pummel the Mueller probe with attacks. On Sunday, Trump again suggested without evidence that Mueller was biased against him, declaring, "This is the most one-sided Witch Hunt in the history of our country."

And as Trump and his allies have tried to discredit the probe, a new talking point has emerged: that even if that meeting was held to collect damaging information, none was provided and "collusion" — Trump's go-to description of what Mueller is investigating — never occurred.

"The question is what law, statute or rule or regulation has been violated, and nobody has pointed to one," Jay Sekulow, one of Trump's attorneys, said on ABC's "This Week."

But legal experts have pointed out several possible criminal charges, including conspiracy against the U.S. and aiding and abetting a conspiracy. And despite Trump's public Twitter denial, the president has expressed worry that his son could face legal exposure even as he believes he did nothing wrong, according to three people close to the White House familiar with the president's thinking but not authorized to speak publicly about private conversations.

Sekulow acknowledged that the public explanation for the meeting has changed but insisted that the White House has been very clear with the special counsel's office. He said he was not aware of any legal exposure faced by Donald Trump Jr.

"I don't represent Don Jr.," Sekulow said. "but I will tell you I have no knowledge at all of Don Jr. being told that he's a target of any investigation, and I have no knowledge of him being interviewed by the special counsel."



STEVE GONZALES, HOUSTON CHRONICLE/AP

Law enforcement officers respond May 18 at Santa Fe High School after an active shooter was reported on campus in Santa Fe, Texas.

## Texas Republicans squelch 'red flag' gun law prospects

By JIM VERTUNO  
Associated Press

AUSTIN, Texas — Texas schools have been adding metal detectors and armed personnel in an effort to improve campus security in response to the deadly May attack at a Houston-area high school that left eight students and two teachers dead.

Among the steps that Texas apparently won't be taking anytime soon is tightening restrictions on gun access for people deemed dangerous to themselves or others.

In the aftermath of the May 18 attack at Santa Fe High School, Republican Gov. Greg Abbott suggested that Texas should look for ways to keep guns away from people who pose "an immediate danger to others," which is the point of so-called red flag laws like those passed by six states since the February massacre at a high school in Parkland, Fla.

But faced with criticism from gun enthusiasts in the country's largest conservative state, Abbott — who gets top ratings from

the National Rifle Association — later clarified that he was only suggesting such laws be part of a broader conversation about school security and that he thinks there's growing opposition to the idea of gun restrictions.

Lt. Gov. Dan Patrick, who presides over the Texas Senate, was even more forceful.

"I have never supported these policies, nor has the majority of the Texas Senate," he said minutes after the last in a series of state Senate hearings on gun violence.

The one-two punch by the state's top Republicans drew cheers from gun rights advocates in a state that has more than 1.2 million handgun license holders and allows the open carrying in public of handguns and long rifles.

While they vary from state to state, red flag laws generally allow law enforcement or family members to ask a judge to order the seizure or surrender of guns from someone who is deemed dangerous, often because of men-

tal health concerns or threats of violence. About a dozen states have red flag laws, including Republican-led Florida, which passed its law following the Parkland school attack.

Texas can deny a handgun license based on a person's mental health history, but that restriction applies to the license to carry a handgun, not buying one. The state can seize weapons from people determined to be in a mental crisis in some circumstances.

Some gun rights activists worry that expanding red flag laws would allow the government to seize someone's guns based on the suspicion of a threat or a false report without that person having acted violently.

"Red flag laws are nothing more than ways to take guns out of the hands of law-abiding persons on nothing more than mere suspicion," said C.J. Grisham, leader of gun rights group Open Carry Texas, which has pushed to reduce gun restrictions for years. "You never get good policy when you base it off of emotion."

## New Mexico sheriff: Compound searched, 11 children removed

Associated Press

TAOS, N.M. — Law enforcement officers searching a rural northern New Mexico compound for a missing 3-year-old boy didn't locate him but found 11 other children in filthy conditions and with hardly any food, a sheriff said Saturday.

The children, ranging in age from 1 to 15, were removed from the compound in the small community of Amalia, N.M., and were turned over to state child-welfare workers, Taos County Sheriff Jerry Hogrefe said.

Two men were arrested during the

search while two women at the compound initially were detained before being released pending further investigation, Hogrefe said.

One of the men, Siraj Wahhaj, 39, was jailed on a Georgia warrant alleging child abduction while the other man, identified only as Lucas Morten, was arrested on suspicion of harboring a fugitive, Hogrefe said.

Online court records checked Saturday didn't list defense attorneys who could comment on behalf of the men.

The search stemmed from an investiga-

tion involving the Taos County Sheriff's Office, the FBI and Clayton County, Ga., authorities, Hogrefe said in a statement.

Amalia is 145 miles northeast of Albuquerque and in an isolated, high-desert area near the New Mexico-Colorado border.

Hogrefe said authorities had conducted surveillance of the compound while looking for the missing boy before he decided Thursday to get a search warrant immediately after a Georgia investigator forwarded a message in which someone at the compound reportedly told another person

that people at the compound were starving and needed water.

Hogrefe said the search did not turn up the missing boy, identified by the sheriff as AG Wahhaj, but that investigators had reason to believe the boy had been at the compound relatively recently.

It's not clear whether the boy and Siraj Wahhaj are related.

There were no injuries during the search, the sheriff said. But Wahhaj and Morten initially refused to follow commands and Wahhaj was armed with a rifle and four handguns, Hogrefe said.

## BUSINESS/WEATHER

## Some doubt Facebook's openness is a true change

By BARBARA ORTUTAY  
Associated Press

NEW YORK — For a company bent on making the world more open, Facebook has long been secretive about the details of how it runs its social network — particularly how things go wrong and what it does about them.

Yet on Tuesday, Facebook rushed forward to alert Congress and the public that it had recently detected a small but "sophisticated" case of possible Russian election manipulation. Has the social network finally acknowledged the need to keep the world informed about the big problems it's grappling with, rather than doing so when it's drawn kicking and screaming to the podium?

While the unprromised revelation does signal a new, albeit tightly controlled, openness for the company, there is still plenty that Facebook isn't saying. Many experts remain unconvinced that this is a true culture change and not mere window dressing.

"This is all calculated very carefully," said Timothy Carone, a business professor at the University of Notre Dame. He and other analysts noted that Facebook announced its discovery of 32 accounts and pages intended to

**'The problem with Facebook is Facebook.'**

SIVA VAIDHYANATHAN  
University of Virginia professor

stir up U.S. political discord just a week after the company's stock dropped almost 20 percent — its worst plunge since going public.

But Facebook's proactive disclosure, including a conference call for reporters with chief operating officer Sheryl Sandberg, struck a markedly different tone from the company's ham-handed approach to a string of scandals and setbacks over the past two years. That has included —

■ CEO Mark Zuckerberg's infamous dismissal of the idea that fake news on Facebook could have influenced the 2016 election as "a pretty crazy idea."

■ The company's foot-dragging as evidence mounted of a 2016 Russian election-interference effort conducted on Facebook and other social-media sites.

■ Zuckerberg, again, declining for nearly a week to publicly address the privacy furor over a Trump campaign consultant, Cambridge Analytica, that scavenged data from tens of millions

of Facebook users for its own election-influence efforts.

A chastened Facebook has since taken steps toward transparency, many of them easy to overlook. In April, it published for the first time the detailed guidelines its moderators use to police unacceptable material. It has provided additional, if partial, explanations of how it collects user data and what it does with it. And it has forced disclosure of the funding and audience targeting of political advertisements, which it now also archivess for public scrutiny.

All of that is in keeping with the image of Facebook that Zuckerberg relentlessly promotes. In his telling, the giant, data-and-ad-driven social network is a force for good in the world that must now reluctantly do battle with "bad actors," such as Russian agents, who threaten Facebook's noble mission of "connecting the world."

Facebook's newfound passion for openness only goes so far. Of the 32 apparently fake accounts and pages it found, it released only eight to researchers.

Despite Zuckerberg's repeated mantra — delivered to relentless effect in some 10 hours of testimony before Congress in April — that the company now really gets

it, some who know the company best have their doubts.

David Kirkpatrick, the author of a Facebook history, argues that neither Zuckerberg nor Sandberg have ever shown themselves to be "deeply alarmed in public." As a result, he suggests, Facebook seems more concerned with managing its image than with solving the actual problem at hand.

Some of the company's biggest critics, including former employees such as Sandy Parakilas and early Facebook investor Roger McNamee, say the company needs to revamp its business model from the ground up to see any meaningful change. Merely hiring more moderators, or hanging hopes on the evolution of artificial intelligence, isn't going to cut it, in their view.

There have also been widespread calls for Facebook to acknowledge that it is, in a sense, a media company, responsible for what happens on its platforms — a characterization the social network has long fought.

For all that, Facebook is well ahead of Silicon Valley rivals such as Google and Twitter when it comes to openness — even if only because it's attracted the lion's share of criticism.

But Facebook "can't win at this game," said Siva Vaidhyanathan, a University of Virginia professor of media studies whose 2018 book "Antisocial Media" critiques Facebook's effect on democracy and society. Because it's so huge — 2.2 billion global users and counting — and so difficult to police, he said, "it will always be vulnerable to hijacking and will never completely clean up its content."

Worse, he says, there is no real solution. "It is hopeless," he said. "The problem with Facebook is Facebook."

**EXCHANGE RATES**

Military rates	
Euro (Aug. 6)	\$1.895
Dollar buys (Aug. 6)	€0.8407
British pound	1.334
Canadian (Dollar)	1.2980
Swiss franc	0.9232
Denmark (Krone)	6.4383
Egypt (Pound)	17.875
Chinese (Yuan)	1.1578
Hong Kong (Dollar)	7.8490
Hungary (Forint)	276.47
India (Rupee)	30.92
Japan (Yen)	111.23
Kuwait (Dinar)	0.3029
Norway (Krone)	8.2561
Poland (Zloty)	4.50
Poland (Zloty)	3.68
Saudi Arabia (Riyal)	3.7594
South Africa (Rand)	1.065
South Korea (Won)	1,123.54
Switzerland (Franc)	0.9941
Thailand (Baht)	33.26
Thailand (Baht)	5.0856

(Military exchange rates are those available to customers of military banking units in the U.S. and are not available for foreign exchange for Japan, South Korea, Germany, the Netherlands and the United Kingdom. For example, the exchange rate for the U.S. dollar (i.e., purchasing British pounds in Germany), check with your local military banking unit. The exchange rate for the U.S. dollar is the bank rates provided for reference when buying currency. All figures are foreign currencies converted to U.S. dollars. One euro is one pound, and this is represented in dollars-to-pound, and the euro, which is dollars-to-euro.)

**INTEREST RATES**

Prime	5.00
Discount rate	2.50
Federal funds market rate	1.91
3-month bill	1.98
30-year bond	2.09

## Wells Fargo: Mistake contributed to many foreclosures

Associated Press

CHARLOTTE, N.C. — Wells Fargo said a company mistake contributed to hundreds of foreclosures because it miscalculated customers' eligibility for mortgage modifications.

The bank said in a filing Friday the error caused about 625 customers to be denied, or not offered, loan modifications they otherwise qualified for. Foreclosures were completed in about 400 of the cases.

The customers had been using federal programs that helped families at risk of losing homes. Spokesman Tom Goyda said there's no breakdown of where the foreclosures occurred.

The error in the bank's underwriting tool lasted from 2010 until it was fixed in late 2015, an internal review found.

The bank said it set aside \$8 million this year to help the affected customers.

Last week, the bank agreed to pay a \$2.1 billion fine to settle allegations it misrepresented the types of mortgages it sold to investors during the housing bubble and subsequent financial crisis.

The amount is smaller than fines paid by Bank of America, JPMorgan Chase, Goldman Sachs and other big banks in the years following the financial crisis to settle similar allegations.

## WEATHER OUTLOOK

## MONDAY IN THE MIDDLE EAST



## MONDAY IN EUROPE



## TUESDAY IN THE PACIFIC



The weather is provided by the American Forces Network Weather Center, 2nd Weather Squadron at Offutt Air Force Base, Neb.

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**Dr. Ralph Erickson, a VA expert on post-deployment health issues, testified before the Senate Veterans' Affairs Committee on Wednesday. He said most of the ailments presumed to be caused by Agent Orange also are tied to aging.**



PHOTOS BY CARLOS BONGIOANNI/Stars and Stripes

**Vietnam Veterans of America representative Rick Weidman, right, told the committee that Congress already presumes veterans who served anywhere in Vietnam were exposed to Agent Orange and doesn't try to calculate the level of exposure.**

# VA attacks Blue Water Navy Vietnam Veterans Act, urges Senate to sink it

By TOM PHILPOTT  
Special to Stars and Stripes

**D**epartment of Veterans Affairs officials say they strongly oppose passage of the Blue Water Navy Vietnam Veterans Act (HR 299), which would extend Agent Orange disability benefits and health care to between 70,000 and 90,000 veterans who served aboard ships in territorial waters off Vietnam during the war and today suffer ailments associated with herbicides sprayed across its jungles for years.

The Blue Water Navy bill passed the House unanimously in late June and seemed certain to fly through the Senate, given reports of close coordination the bill between the chambers' Veterans' Affairs committees and the House having negotiated a plan to pay for the benefits with major veteran service organizations.

On Wednesday, however, with Robert Wilkie installed two days earlier as VA secretary, his undersecretary for benefits, Paul R. Lawrence, during a Senate Veterans' Affairs Committee hearing, delivered a blistering attack on the Blue Water Navy bill and on a proposal to test providing routine dental care to veterans.

Lawrence testified that there's still no credible scientific evidence to support extending Agent Orange-related benefits to shipboard personnel who never went ashore in Vietnam or patrolled its rivers. Without such evidence, he said, it would be wrong, and would create a disastrous precedent, to award VA benefits.

"This committee set the standard to use science to be fair and consistent in cases such as this," said Lawrence, referring to the Agent Orange Act of 1991. "Once that standard is removed from the equation, it becomes nearly impossible to adjudicate a claim of this type on the merits. The resulting lower threshold sets in motion the prospect of uncontrollable demands for [VA] support."

Lawrence, who took charge of veteran benefit programs in May, warned that if HR 299 is enacted, it will "be referenced when other exposure claims are presented to this committee. At that point, Congress will be under greater pressure to accommodate these requests too, regardless of the evidence," he said.

It wasn't immediately clear what damage Lawrence and his top official on post-deployment health issues, Dr. Ralph Erickson, inflicted on the popular Blue Water Navy bill. A majority of senators on the committee still spoke in favor.

But the Trump administration has reversed signals of support that a beleaguered then-VA Secretary David Shulkin, gave Blue Water advocates in March.

The VA for years had opposed the legislation. The usual hard line softened a year after Shulkin became President Donald

## MILITARY UPDATE

Trump's first VA secretary when he told Rep. David Valadao, R-Ga., lead sponsor of the House bill, "that these veterans have waited too long and this is a responsibility that this country has."

Shulkin noted that the VA lacked scientific evidence that shipboard personnel were exposed to dioxin. But he said his staff was "working hard to look at offsets" — cuts to other parts of the VA budget — to pay for Blue Water Navy benefits.

"And it is a high priority for us," he added.

Two weeks later Shulkin was fired, deepening a leadership vacuum at the VA caused by political chaos at the White House. Trump initially nominated his House physician, a Navy admiral, to replace Shulkin. That choice soon fell victim to controversy: The House, meanwhile, passed its Blue Water Navy bill after the Veterans' Affairs Committee negotiated with major veterans organizations a way to pay for it — by raising user fees modestly on VA-guaranteed home loans.

Wilkie became VA secretary on July 30. By Wednesday, there was no trace of the accommodating tone on the Blue Water Navy issue that Shulkin had expressed months earlier. Lawrence searched the bill and its House companion for any language that could be applied to shipboard personnel too, Weidman said.

"How much [exposure] makes no difference," he said. "You don't know [the] difference for folks who served in the delta versus the central highlands where I served. Who knows? And you can't put it together 40 years later."

The VA's hard line appears to leave Senate Committee Chairman Sen. Johnny Isakson, R-Ga., in a tough spot. Veteran service organizations and leaders of the House Veterans' Affairs Committee thought Isakson was set to endorse the bill and shepherd it swiftly toward enactment.

At the hearing, however, Isakson said "we have more work to do on these issues." He promised the committee would work "deliberately" to understand all facets of the Blue Water bill, including whether the House plan to raise VA home loans fees was enough to pay for it. Isakson asked Lawrence whether charging nondisabled veterans an extra \$250 on every \$100,000 in loan value would cover the cost of extending Agent Orange benefits to Blue Water Navy veterans.

"Not in our opinion, no," said Lawrence. Isakson nodded agreement.

"I did real estate sales my entire life," Isakson said. "A lot of VA loans, FHA loans. You can make those numbers look like a lot of things. That is not a lot of money" if VA home loan fees are raised, as the House voted, from 2.25 percent of loan amounts to 2.4 percent, for veterans with active-duty service. "It's variable too, and depends on number of loans that actually are closed" in any year, he said.

It seems the Blue Water Navy bill will be adrift in uncertainty for at least several more months, its future dependent on how Senate leaders react to stiffered resistance from the Trump administration.

Send comments to Military Update, P.O. Box 231111, Centreville, VA 20120; email [milupdate@stripes.com](mailto:milupdate@stripes.com); Twitter: @Military\_Update.

## OPINION

## S. Korea crucial to any US-N. Korea progress

By DAVID IGNATIUS  
Washington Post Writers Group

WASHINGTON

Koreans have a saying that helps explain the recent upbeat exchanges between Washington, Seoul and Pyongyang: "Say pretty things to hear pretty things."

Beyond the Trump White House, there remains much skepticism that North Korea will ever give up its nuclear weapons. Recent leaks about North Korea's continuing efforts to build its nuclear and missile arsenal underline this concern that President Donald Trump made a sucker play in Singapore. But the public rhetoric from Washington and Pyongyang is warming, after a chill, and it's backed by some real moves to ease tensions.

The latest sweet talk was Trump's tweet Wednesday evening effusively thanking Kim Jong Un "for keeping your word" and returning remains of U.S. soldiers who died in the Korean War. Trump called it a "kind action" and enthused, "I look forward to seeing you soon."

The most important recent conversation on Korea may have been Tuesday's meeting between a North Korean and South Korean general at the border village of Panmunjom. This was the latest installment of a slow, steady process of engagement between the two Koreas that predates the Trump-Kim summit.

The two generals discussed reducing weapons in the Demilitarized Zone and halting firing exercises and withdrawing artillery along the West Sea coast, according to South Korean reports. South Korea officials would like to turn the heavily mined DMZ into a weapons-free nature preserve as a symbol of progress.

Trump gets the headlines when it comes to North Korea. But the real driver may be inter-Korean contacts. Kim signaled in a Jan. 1 speech that he wanted to leverage his nuclear weapons capability for economic development, and South Korean President Moon Jae-in responded boldly with his



**South Korea Defense Ministry/AP**  
North Korean Lt. Gen. An Ik San, left, and South Korean Maj. Gen. Kim Do-gyun enter a meeting room inside Peace House at Panmunjom, South Korea, on Tuesday.

Olympic diplomacy, Trump embraced this opening but he didn't create it.

The Washington diplomatic mood has been spiking up and down like a fever chart in the nearly two months since the June 12 summit in Singapore. American over-optimism about quick denuclearization (fueled by Trump) created frustration and disappointment when the North Koreans dragged their feet. U.S. pressure for faster progress brought North Korean protests at supposed "gangster-like tactics."

The Korean fog has cleared, at least momentarily, because of a series of confidence-building measures by Kim that,

while they don't move toward denuclearization, at least suggest good faith. The North Koreans last month dismantled rocket-testing and satellite launch facilities, and then delivered the promised servicemen's remains.

Washington wants to begin the denuclearization process with a detailed inventory of North Korean materials and sites. Pyongyang has delayed, at least publicly, seeking more American goodwill gestures.

A key issue ahead for the U.S. and the Koreas is a proposed joint declaration of the formal end of the Korean War. At their Panmunjom summit on April 27, Moon

and Kim pledged this declaration before year-end. The U.S., so far, has resisted, wanting the North to deliver more on denuclearization.

A formal declaration of the war's end would foster denuclearization "by alleviating the worries of North Korea over the security of its regime," argues a fact sheet published by South Korea after the Panmunjom summit. Seoul believes that this declaration, perhaps co-signed by China, wouldn't affect the status of U.S. forces in South Korea. Indeed, Seoul argues that both North and South may privately agree on the utility of U.S. troops as a way of checking Chinese hegemony over the Korean Peninsula.

South Korean Ambassador Cho Yoon-je explained the importance of the end-of-war declaration and other confidence-building measures as a bridge to denuclearization in a recent interview. "It is our firm belief that the enhanced exchange and communications between the two Koreas will help facilitate the denuclearization dialogue," he said. In other words, the path from Pyongyang to Washington may lead through Seoul.

South Korea is also pushing for North Korea to work with the International Monetary Fund and the World Bank as a start toward gradual inclusion in the global economy. Cho told me that the IMF and the World Bank "would not only provide loans, but more importantly, also policy advice for economic transition." Again, the U.S. appears wary of making these concessionary gestures before North Korea takes verifiable steps toward dismantling its nuclear capability.

On July 27, North Korea celebrating the anniversary of its "victory" in the Korean War. Former CIA analyst Robert Carlson notes that previously, the North had boasted that it defeated "U.S.-led imperialist aggressors." This year's statement just referred to "imperialists." In such small semantic changes, we see how large transformations could eventually be wrought.

## Trump's presidential path reminiscent of Harding's

By BRAD SCHILLER  
Special to The Los Angeles Times

No one ever thought Warren Harding, who died 95 years ago, had the capacity to become president of the United States. But he did look presidential. He was tall, handsome, always well dressed and well groomed, and an avid golfer. Plus, he gave robust, if vague, speeches about "returning America to normalcy" that appealed to a war- and recession-weary electorate. In the election campaign of 1920, he championed three issues: tax cuts, immigration cutbacks and tariffs on trade. He also promised to roll back the progressive legislation of his predecessors.

Doesn't that sound like a certain someone we know?

Harding had other similarities to Donald Trump. During his presidency, he persuaded Congress to pass tax cuts that helped bankroll the Roaring '20s. The Revenue Act of 1921 reduced the marginal tax rate on the rich from 73 percent to 58 percent and the capital gains tax to 12.5 percent. It also eliminated the excess profits tax that was enacted to help finance World War I. On a percentage basis, those cuts were much larger than Trump's. Two subsequent acts lowered the top tax rate all the way down to 25 percent.

On the trade front, Harding pushed for

higher tariffs. He espoused "scientific" tariffs that would prohibit foreigners from selling goods at prices below U.S. production costs. The Emergency Tariff of 1921 slapped high tariffs on imported corn, wheat, sugar, wool and other agricultural products. The Fordney-McCumber Tariff of 1922 raised levies even higher. Those actions cut imports dramatically and sparked a predictable trade war. France raised its tariffs on American cars from 45 percent to 100 percent. Spain, Germany and Italy also raised their rates.

As for immigration, Harding championed the Per Cent Act of 1921 that had been vetoed by his predecessor, Woodrow Wilson. That legislation had the effect of reducing the flow of immigrants to the U.S. from 800,000 in 1920 to only 300,000 in 1922.

On the global stage, Harding was a champion of "America First" and opposed our entry into the League of Nations.

Harding even suffered from some of the same managerial failings as Trump. Although he promised to appoint the most qualified people to his administration, he surrounded himself with business cronies and relatives. His attorney general, Harry Daugherty, was impeached for self-dealing and corruption. His brother-in-law, the superintendent of federal prisons, faced similar accusations. His director of the Veterans Bureau, Charles Forbes, was

later convicted of defrauding the government and sent to prison. His legal counsel, Charles Cramer, was accused of corruption and committed suicide in 1923. His campaign manager resigned from the U.S. Shipping Board after selling surplus government-owned ships for pennies on the dollar to friends. And, most famously, his interior secretary, Albert Fall, orchestrated the Teapot Dome scandal and is the only sitting Cabinet member to have been sent to prison.

These other scandals reflected Harding's preference for hiring on the basis of personal relationships rather than ability.

And last, but far from least, of the similarities to Trump: Harding's philandering. He had a 15-year affair with a friend's wife, Carrie Phillips, that reached into his White House years and an intense affair with Nan Britton, which began in a New York hotel room and continued in a White House cloakroom. He paid both women to keep silent about their affairs. The Republican National Committee paid Phillips \$5,000 a month to keep quiet on top of an initial gift of more than \$20,000. Britton got a lot less. But she gave birth to a daughter, whom Harding supported with \$500 a month (often hand-delivered by the Secret Service), plus extra cash when they got together.

Harding adamantly denied ever having those affairs. He also denied fathering

Britton's child. All his political associates stuck to that story. But after his death, those associates stopped making payments to Britton and her daughter. So Nan wrote a book ("The President's Daughter") that bared all the sordid details of their long relationship. Still, Harding's family and associates claimed her story was fake news and vehemently rejected her allegations. It wasn't until 2015, 90 years later, that DNA tests proved that Harding had lied about his paternity.

Harding died on Aug. 2, 1923. Tabloids at the time suggested that his wife, Florence, might have poisoned him in retribution for his philandering. But historians have suggested he more likely succumbed to a heart attack.

Historians consistently rate Harding as one of the worst U.S. presidents and often speculate that he would have been impeached had he lived longer. In what might be taken as a cautionary tale for Trump, Harding expressed frustration about the scandals that enveloped his administration: "I have no trouble with my enemies. I can take care of my enemies all right. But my damn friends, my ... friends ... they're the ones who keep me walking the floor nights."

Brad Schiller is an emeritus professor of economics at American University and the author of "The Economy Today."

## WORLD



VENEZOLANA DE TELEVISION/AP

In this image from video, President Nicolas Maduro, center, delivers his speech as his wife, Cilia Flores, winces and looks up after being startled by an explosion Saturday in Caracas, Venezuela.

## Venezuela's Maduro says drone attack an attempt to kill him

By SCOTT SMITH  
AND CHRISTINE ARMARIO  
Associated Press

CARACAS, Venezuela — Venezuelan President Nicolas Maduro dodged an apparent assassination attempt when drones armed with explosives detonated while he was delivering a speech to hundreds of soldiers being broadcast live on television, officials said.

Caught by surprise mid-speech, Maduro and his wife, Cilia Flores, looked up at the sky and winced Saturday after hearing the sound of an explosion pierce the air.

"This was an attempt to kill me," he said later in an impassioned retelling of the events. "Today, they attempted to assassinate me."

Information Minister Jorge Rodriguez said the incident took place shortly after 5:30 p.m. as Maduro was celebrating the National Guard's 81st anniversary. The visibly shaken head of state said he saw a "flying device" that exploded before his eyes. He thought it might be a pyrotechnics display in honor of the event.

Within seconds, Maduro said he heard a second explosion and pandemonium ensued. Bodyguards escorted Maduro out of the event and television footage showed uniformed soldiers standing in formation quickly scattering from the scene.

He said the "far right" working in coordination with detractors

in Bogota and Miami, including Colombian President Juan Manuel Santos, were responsible. Some of the "material authors" of the apparent attack have been detained.

"The investigation will get to the bottom of this," he said. "No matter who falls."

Venezuela's government routinely accuses opposition activists of plotting to attack and overthrow Maduro, a deeply unpopular leader who recently was elected to a new term in office in a vote decried by dozens of nations. Maduro has moved steadily to concentrate power as the nation reels from a crippling economic crisis.

President Donald Trump's national security adviser, John Bolton, told "Fox News Sunday" that he can state "unequivocally" that "there was no U.S. government involvement in this at all."

At one point Saturday, Maduro asked Trump to arrest the "terrorists."

Apparently in response, Bolton said, "If the government of Venezuela has hard information that they want to present to us that would show a potential violation of U.S. criminal law, we'll take a serious look at it."

Attorney General Tarek William Saab said the attempted assassination targeted not only Maduro, but the military's entire high command on stage with the president.

small Swiss company Ju-Air, went down Saturday on the Piz Segnas mountain above the Alpine resort of Flims in the country's southeast at an altitude of about 8,330 feet above sea level.

There was no immediate word on the cause of the crash, and officials said they expect a complex investigation given that the 79-year-old plane was not equipped

# Friendly moves, barbs mark slow US-N. Korea diplomacy

By TRACY WILKINSON  
Los Angeles Times

President Donald Trump again has exchanged friendly letters with North Korean dictator Kim Jong Un, even as his top diplomat attempted this past weekend in Asia to fortify international pressure on the nuclear-armed country to give up its weaponry.

Secretary of State Michael Pompeo smiled and shook hands Saturday with his North Korean counterpart at a regional conference in Singapore just before Trump's letter was handed over. Minutes later, with Pompeo gone, the North Korean foreign minister, Ri Yong Ho, unleashed a stinging critique of Washington and the sort of demands that Pompeo came to deliver.

The back-and-forth illustrated the tricky — and slow — diplomacy the administration confronts since Trump's summit with Kim nearly two months ago as it seeks to force North Korea to get rid of its nuclear arsenal.

Kim agreed to "denuclearize," the Trump administration has said in what it portrays as a major diplomatic triumph. But North Korea has yet to take any significant steps to that end.

The State Department said the letter from Trump to Kim was in response to what Trump said was a "nice" missive from the North Korean leader last week.

After Pompeo exchanged greetings with Ri at the conference of foreign ministers from Southeast Asia, Trump's letter was handed over by Sung Kim, U.S. ambassador to the Philippines, who has been a key figure in the Washington-Pyongyang negotiations that year.

"We should meet again soon," Pompeo told Ri, according to State Department spokeswoman Heather Nauer.

"I agree," Ri responded. "There are many productive conversations to be had."

Yet minutes later, and after Pompeo had left the conference for meetings in nearby Indonesia, Ri took the Trump administration to task for its insistent demands. "What is alarming," Ri said, "is the insistent moves manifested within the U.S. to go back to the old — far from its leader's intention."

The North Korean leadership prefers to focus on Trump's vaguely worded requirements rather than the detailed, specific criteria set out by U.S. diplomats and experienced negotiators trying to put the Trump-Kim commitment into concrete, verifiable terms.

Trump's one-on-one meeting with Kim, also held in Singapore, in June, was the first sit-down of an incumbent U.S. president and a North Korean leader, affording the young Kim a long-desired global recognition.

The U.S., in exchange, has received little. North Korea did agree to revive a repatriation program and last week, as a good-faith gesture, returned the possible remains of some U.S. soldiers killed in the 1950s-era Korean War. Many more soldiers remain unaccounted for.

Yet North Korea's nuclear disarmament is the primary goal, and still elusive. For decades, Pyongyang has found ways to wiggle out of requirements

## Bolton: US is not 'starry-eyed' over N. Korean nukes

Bloomberg

The U.S. isn't being naive in taking North Korea at its word on denuclearization, said White House National Security Adviser John Bolton, defending President Donald Trump's approach to Pyongyang.

"There's no one in this administration starry-eyed about" the idea North Korean leader Kim Jong Un's regime will completely rid itself of nuclear weapons capability, Bolton said during an appearance on "Fox News Sunday." Still, the point may well come when Trump concludes Kim isn't acting in good faith, he said.

Bolton's comments follow Secretary of State Michael Pompeo's warning on Saturday that other nations must not ease sanctions on North Korea until that country gives up its nuclear weapons. Pompeo called out Russia and China for violating United Nations Security Council resolutions restricting trade with North Korea.

that the U.S. and the international community have imposed on North Korea as part of earlier, failed agreements on nuclear disarmament.

Trump thinks he has found a new formula through his personal diplomacy with Kim, yet his lack of specificity has allowed Pyongyang even more leeway.

Pompeo acknowledged to journalists traveling with him in Singapore, as well as to Indonesia's capital of Jakarta and to Kuala Lumpur, the capital of Malaysia, that there is a "ways to go" in pushing North Korea toward denuclearization.

Trump, by contrast, has continued to claim significant progress, even success, in his public statements and Twitter posts. U.S. officials say that, far from content with North Korea's behavior, they are "concerned" about recent intelligence reports that seem to show new construction at the country's nuclear facilities.

"If these reports prove accurate — and we have every reason to believe that they are — that would be in violation," Pompeo said.

A fundamental problem, say experts and former negotiators, is that the two governments don't even agree on the meaning of the word "denuclearization."

The U.S. insists on a complete, "final" and verifiable removal of North Korea's nuclear weapons and production facilities. But North Korea defines denuclearization as the removal of nuclear power through the Korean Peninsula — including the long-standing U.S. military presence in South Korea, Japan and other parts of the region.

## Old-time plane crashes in Swiss Alps, killing 20 aboard

By GEIR MOULSON  
Associated Press

BERLIN — A vintage propeller plane plunged nearly vertically into a Swiss mountain, killing all 20 people aboard as they returned from a two-day trip to southern Switzerland, investigators said Sunday.

The Junkers Ju-52 plane, operated by

small Swiss company Ju-Air, went down Saturday on the Piz Segnas mountain above the Alpine resort of Flims in the country's southeast at an altitude of about 8,330 feet above sea level.

There was no immediate word on the cause of the crash, and officials said they expect a complex investigation given that the 79-year-old plane was not equipped

with black boxes.

Police said Sunday they had determined that the 17 passengers and three crew-members aboard the plane all died.

The victims were 11 men and nine women between the ages of 42 and 84 — seven couples from various parts of Switzerland, a couple from neighboring Austria and their son, and the three crewmembers.

Their names were not released.

The fully booked plane was flying the passengers back to its base at Dübendorf, near Zurich, from a two-day trip to Switzerland's Italian-speaking southern Ticino region.

It crashed shortly before 5 p.m. Saturday, less than 50 minutes after taking off from Locarno's Magadino airfield.

## WORLD



A relative places his hand onto a portrait of Sylvia Maphosa before her burial Saturday on the outskirts of Harare, Zimbabwe. Maphosa was shot and killed Wednesday by the army during election-related demonstrations in the capital.

## As Zimbabwe's leader preaches a new era, military a concern

BY FARAI MUTSASA  
Associated Press

HARARE, Zimbabwe — As Zimbabwe's president preaches democratic reform in a country emerging from decades of repression, the scenes of soldiers dispersing opposition protesters after a disputed election have cast a shadow on promises of a new era.

Speaking to reporters after being declared the winner of the first vote since the fall of former mentor Robert Mugabe, a relaxed-looking President Emmerson Mnangagwa on Friday praised the "flowering of freedom."

But some observers said Zimbabwe's future depends on whether he can persuade the military hard-liners and former generals who make up his inner circle to share his vision.

After decades as Mugabe's enforcer amid killings of thousands of people in Matabeleland in the 1980s, land seizures from white farmers and elections marred by violence, Mnangagwa, 75, now faces what might be his biggest

challenge: asserting control over the security apparatus that put him into office.

Jubilant Zimbabweans cheered the military in November when it rolled into the capital, Harare, and pressured Mugabe to resign after 37 years in power.

But when troops returned to the streets Wednesday amid gunfire that left six people dead, there were no longer hugs, kisses and selfies. Residents fled, and when Mnangagwa's election win was announced, the reaction was subdued, not celebratory.

"We have removed Mugabe but not Mugabe-ism," opposition leader Nelson Chamisa said.

Asked whether he was confident that the government and the military support his claims of democracy, Mnangagwa said, "I cannot guarantee that everybody will share my vision. But I believe that the majority of my party members, as well as the generality of Zimbabweans, will share that vision."

It was not immediately clear who ordered the military into

the streets. Under Zimbabwe's constitution, only the president has the power to authorize the deployment of defense forces. Police have said they invited the military to step in under a law that says they can do so, but some Zimbabwean lawyers said the constitution remains supreme.

Mnangagwa has refused to say whether he knew in advance about the military's deployment and has not publicly criticized its actions. While hearings began on Saturday for opposition supporters accused of inciting violence in Wednesday's protests, there was no sign of action taken against soldiers. The president has said he will appoint a commission of inquiry once he is sworn in.

"How (Mnangagwa) manages the internal dynamics will have a strong bearing on how his democratic project pans out," said political analyst Alexander Rusero in Harare. "Unelected power will define his path if he fails to take strong measures to impose his will on the military and others close to him."

## Russia names martial artist, movie star Seagal a special envoy to US

BY SIOBHAN O'GRADY  
The Washington Post

In November 2016, Michigan-born martial artist and action film star Steven Seagal visited Russian President Vladimir Putin at the Kremlin to receive an unusual gift: his very own Russian passport.

Seagal's grandmother was born in Vladivostok, and the actor and Putin share a passion for martial arts. But Seagal has faced some criticism for his friendship with the controversial Russian leader. He has praised Putin's annexation of Crimea, for example, and last year, Kiev banned him

from entering Ukraine for five years, claiming he has "committed so-called dangerous actions" that could threaten their security.

On Saturday, Russia honored Seagal again, this time with a position as a special envoy to the U.S.

In a Facebook post on Saturday, the Russian Foreign Ministry announced that Seagal has been appointed to the new role, which apparently will be



Seagal

unpaid. His responsibility will be to "facilitate relations between Russia and the United States in the humanitarian field, including cooperation in culture, arts, public and youth exchanges."

The Washington Post was unable to reach Seagal immediately for comment.

In 2015, BuzzFeed News reported that two years earlier, Putin had suggested to then-President Barack Obama that he could make Seagal the honorary Russian consul to California and Arizona. "Our reaction was, 'You've got to be kidding,'" a U.S. official told BuzzFeed, referring to the offer.

Russia isn't the only country offering overtures to Seagal. In 2016, Serbian state media reported that the government had offered Seagal citizenship for offering to open a martial arts academy in Belgrade.

Seagal does seem particularly interested in the former Soviet Union. He's also visited with Chechen leader Ramzan Kadyrov and Belarusian President Alexander Lukashenko. And in a 2013 interview with news channel RT, Seagal said he believed Putin "is one of the greatest world leaders, if not the greatest world leader, alive today."

## Iran gets planes ahead of renewed US sanctions

BY AMIR VAHDAT  
AND JON GAMBRELL  
Associated Press

oil traders.

Iran's state-run IRNA news agency reported the arrival of the five ATR72-600 airplanes, which are twin-engine turboprops used for short-distance, regional flights. Their arrival means state carrier Iran Air has received 13 of the 20 it ordered from the French-Italian manufacturer in April 2017. The deal had a list value of \$536 million, though buyers and manufacturers typically negotiate lower prices.

ATR, jointly owned by European consortium Airbus and Italy's Leonardo, has been pushing U.S. officials to allow it to finish its delivery of aircraft to Iran. The Toulouse, France-based firm did not immediately respond to a request for comment.

The nuclear deal lifted international sanctions in return for Iran limiting its nuclear program and allowing regular inspections. U.N. inspectors said Iran was complying with the deal, but Trump felt the agreement did not go far enough.

## Palestinian teens reach app pitch finals in Silicon Valley

Associated Press

Israeli-Palestinian conflict, prevailing norms of patriarchy in their traditional society and typically underequipped schools with outdated teaching methods.

"We are excited to travel in a plane for the first time in our lives, meet new people and see a new world," said team member Wasan al-Sayed, 17.

Twelve teams made it to the finals of the "Techovation Challenge" in San Jose, Calif., presenting apps that tackle problems in their communities. The Palestinian teens compete in the senior division against teams from Egypt, the U.S., Mexico, India and Spain for scholarships of up to \$15,000.

## WORLD



MARKUS SCHREIBER/AP

Laura Schulmann, center left, and Sophie Steiert, center right, listen to questions from students about Jewish daily life in Germany as part of a project about religions at Bohnstedt-Gymnasium high school in Luckau, Germany, in June.

# 'Moving toward each other'

## Jewish teens engage in school outreach program to fight anti-Semitism in Germany

BY KIRSTEN GRIESHABER  
Associated Press

LUCKAU, Germany — Sophie Steiert opened a bag of kosher gummy bears and offered them to 20 other German teenagers seated around her in their high school classroom.

"They're really yummy," Steiert, 16, said with an enticing smile. "And by the way, does any one of you know what kosher means?"

The students shrugged. Most of the 17-year-olds never have met a Jewish person. In school, they've only talked about dead Jews: the 6 million killed by the Nazis.

For years, the Jewish community in Germany relied on Holocaust survivors to be its ambassadors. Jews who made it through the horror were the ones with the moral authority to teach young Germans about the perils of anti-Semitism and the crimes of their forefathers.

But with the number of survivors dwindling and schoolchildren today at least three generations removed from the Nazis, young Jews like Steiert are being tapped to put a modern take on an old message.

More than talking about the crimes of the past, they have been encouraged as volunteers for a school outreach program to focus on Jewish life in Germany today. The program was launched amid fresh concerns about anti-Semitic

tism in schools and on the streets of German cities.

Enter Steiert and her friend Laura Schulmann, two girls from Berlin who want to change perceptions and challenge stereotypes as their community's 21st-century ambassadors.

Germany's leading Jewish group, the Central Council of Jews, started the peer-to-peer education project last year. Both the program and the 90 Jewish teenagers recruited for it so far are called "likratinos," which is based on the Hebrew word "likrat" and loosely translates as "moving toward each other."

During a recent visit to Bohnstedt-Gymnasium high school in Luckau, a rural town nearly 62 miles south of Berlin, Steiert and Schulmann tried to approach the students' lack of knowledge with openness.

One teen raised his hand and shared he had once seen Jews while vacationing in Austria. They all were wearing black caftans, big hats and sidelocks, he said.

Schulmann — dressed in jeans, a grey hoodie and sneakers — explained that the people he saw were ultra-Orthodox Jews adhering to strictly observant practices.

She digressed briefly to cover what else very religious Jews do or don't do, and ended up explaining that texting and everything else one might do with a smart-

phone are off-limits from sunset Friday until Saturday evening if one observes the Jewish Sabbath, or Shabbat.

"I'm not that religious," Schulmann, the German-born daughter of Jewish-Russian immigrants, added when she saw the dismay on the faces of the other students. "I use my cell also on Shabbat."

As part of their training, the Jewish teenagers receive coaching on speaking in front of groups, talking about the Jewish faith and dealing with possible anti-Semitic reactions.

Central Council of Jews President Josef Schuster said he thinks the likratinos project can be called a success after almost 80 presentations. He thinks it's because Jewish and non-Jewish teenagers can relate at the same level.

"There's, for example, this thinking that all Jews have long noses," Schuster said. "But when they meet Jewish kids and realize that they are no different from them, that they listen to the same music, wear the same clothes, then that knocks down barriers."

The only problem, he said, is there are more schools requesting workshops than there are Jewish youngsters to serve them.

Germany's population of 82.8 million now includes only about 200,000 Jews. Berlin has the biggest concentration, about 40,000. Before Adolf Hitler and his Nazi

Party came to power, Germany had a Jewish population of about 500,000.

Most of the Jews now are immigrants from the former Soviet Union who were taken in after the Berlin Wall came down in 1989, a gesture of atonement for the Holocaust crimes of the Nazis.

While anti-Semitism has existed in Europe for hundreds of years, often fanned by Christian churches that blamed Jews for the killing of Jesus, a large new influx of immigrants from Mideast countries into Germany has provided new sources of tension, such as the Israeli-Palestinian conflict, according to German officials and Jewish activists.

The German Interior Ministry said in its annual crime statistics survey that police received reports of 1,453 anti-Semitic incidents in 2017 — about four per day.

The visible reappearance in Germany of the prejudice that resulted in genocide has aroused alarm. Wenzel Michalski, the German director of Human Rights Watch, said his teenage son was harassed so much for being Jewish at a public high school in Berlin that he moved him to a private school.

"Anti-Semitism has crept back into everyday life, and it's shocking how much lethargy there is about this," Michalski said.

After a string of incidents, the

brazen April assault in the German capital of a man wearing a yarmulke prompted demonstrations and a condemnation of the attack from Chancellor Angela Merkel. A 19-year-old Syrian who came to Germany in 2015 seeking asylum was identified as a suspect and convicted of serious bodily harm and slander and sentenced to four weeks in jail under juvenile sentencing laws.

Steiert and Schulmann, who attend a Jewish high school in Berlin, say they have not had negative encounters as likratinos volunteers, but are careful in their day-to-day lives about revealing their Jewish identities.

Back at the high school in Luckau, the girls told the class that their parents remind them constantly not to wear Star of David jewelry in public or anything else that might out them as Jews.

After the lesson ended, Annika Wendt, 17, came forward to thank the speakers.

"I barely knew anything about Jews when I came here this morning," Wendt said. "Thanks for telling me about your weddings, your holidays and what you as Jews think about life after death."

She paused for a moment. "What I really don't understand is this anti-Semitism," Wendt confided. "Really, there's nothing about you that one should have to condemn in any way. I don't get it."

# AMERICAN ROUNDUP

## Car hits soldier aiding woman after accident

**FL** LAKELAND — A soldier in Florida who tried to help a woman on a scooter after she was hit by a car at night was hit by another vehicle that also killed the woman.

The Polk County Sheriff's Office said Kelli Marie Black, 40, died on a Lakeland street early Thursday after she was hit by the second vehicle while two good Samaritans, including the soldier, were trying to help her in the road.

The Ledger reported that Pfc. Kaleb Lawson was hit in the leg when the second car drove over Black's chest. Lawson was on leave from the Army.

Sheriff Grady Judd said investigators tracked down the suspected driver of the first vehicle, who was expected to turn himself in, and they were seeking the suspect in the second vehicle.

## Man raising money for student lunch bills

**ND** BISMARCK — A Bismarck photographer has launched a fundraiser that aims to collect money to address the \$23,000 in unpaid meal debt in the city's public school system.

The Bismarck Tribune reported that Phillip Schultz's Feed the Youth initiative will hold a free concert next month to help raise funds for Bismarck Public Schools.

About half of the debt comes from children who receive free or reduced-price lunches. About 23 percent of students district-wide qualify for the federal lunch program.

## Warrant issued over pit bull puppy left to drown

**NJ** HIGHLANDS — New Jersey authorities have issued an arrest warrant for the man they say left a pit bull puppy to drown in a cage. The dog later was rescued.

The Monmouth County prosecutor's office announced its Facebook page Friday that an arrest warrant has been issued for Aaron D. Davis, 36, of Long Branch. Police did not say whether Davis was the owner of the dog or what charges he faces.

A woman walking on the beach in Highlands early July 30 spotted the gray-and-white puppy, cowering in a cage as the tide came in. Jennifer Vaz rescued the dog, since renamed "River," and said she plans to adopt him.

## Police: Couple robbed of all but underwear

**MS** BILOXI — Police said a Mississippi couple visiting a friend were assaulted by the friend's boyfriend and were robbed of everything but their underwear.

The Sun Herald of Biloxi reported that Larryn Montrail Armstrong, 32, was charged with robbery for the Thursday crime. Biloxi police Detective Nick Sonnier said the couple told authorities that they were visiting Armstrong's girlfriend at his

## THE CENSUS

# 75

**The number of tires police in New Jersey say were slashed by a man** they are searching for who also set one vehicle on fire. The Somerset County Prosecutor's Office announced Thursday that 35 vehicles in Marlville had their tires slashed between midnight and 4 a.m. Police first noticed the suspect last month when he was recorded slashing tires on surveillance video. Authorities have released surveillance footage of the suspect.



ELAINE THOMPSON/AP

## Lying aloft

**Theo Heitzman, 4, of Polk City, Iowa, lies across "The Loupe," called the world's first and only revolving glass floor, while visiting the Space Needle in Seattle on Friday.** The recently completed, \$100 million renovation of the 605-foot-tall structure included the replacement of some floors and walls with structural glass that opened up views of the three legs below.

apartment when a fight broke out and he assaulted them.

Sonnier said the couple told police Armstrong stole their clothes, cellphone and wallet before they escaped in their underwear. The couple suffered minor injuries.

## Man guilty of killing wife with frying pan

**MT** BOZEMAN — A Montana man accused of killing his wife with a frying pan and then trying to dispose of the body at a landfill pleaded guilty to deliberate homicide and tampering with evidence.

The Bozeman Daily Chronicle reported Jake Collins, 34, entered his plea Friday for the Jan. 1, 2017, death of his wife, Crystal.

The Bozeman man acknowledged that he hit his wife when she told him she was going to leave him. Investigators said Collins told them he drank 17 beers and a shot of whiskey and smoked marijuana that night.

According to court documents, he acknowledged that he tried to dispose of the body and evidence at a landfill. It was closed for the holiday, so he returned home.

## Soap helps free girl stuck in rock formation

**MN** SANDSTONE — Rescuers used dish soap to help free a 13-year-old girl who became wedged in a rock formation at a quarry in Pine County.

St. Louis County Rescue Squad Capt. Rick Slatten said the girl was trapped in a crack in the rock for about four hours Wednesday while crews worked to get her out. Slatten said the crack is more than 30 feet off the ground at the Robinson Quarry on the Kettle River in Sandstone.

KBJR-TV reported five rescuers climbed down the face of the cliff and used an extraction tool to remove rock, and applied dish soap to the girl's leg to help free her. The girl was treated at a hospital.

## Farmer's death by bull is second in 10 days

**NY** COVINGTON — State police said a 72-year-old man died after being struck by a bull on a farm in western

New York.

Troopers said Roy C. Bell, of Perry, died Thursday at a farm on Simmons Road in Covington, 30 miles southwest of Rochester. Police said Bell was moving cattle around the farm when he was struck by a 1-year-old bull shortly before noon.

It was the second death caused by a bull in upstate New York in 10 days. On July 24, Eugene Wolfert, 68, died after being gored by a bull on his dairy farm in Middlefield in Otsego County.

## Man gets 12 years for fatal DUI crash

**FL** BARTOW — A Florida man was sentenced to 12 years in prison for a fatal drunken driving crash.

The Florida Highway Patrol reported that Nick Nicholas admitted to drinking two shots of alcohol at an Orlando restaurant several hours before he stopped his SUV in the left lane of Interstate 4 near Lakeland.

Investigators said Michael Jovanic Millan Perez, 21, crashed his car into the stopped SUV

and died at the scene on an early morning in February 2015.

Nicholas was arrested about nine months later.

The Ledger reported that Nicholas, 34, pleaded guilty in May to DUI manslaughter and was sentenced Thursday.

## Border Patrol finds artillery ordnance

**AZ** BISBEE — The U.S. Border Patrol said its agents discovered an active round of ammunition apparently from a World War II piece of artillery.

The agency's Tucson sector said the unexploded device was found in Bisbee near the international boundary fence with Mexico.

It said deputies from the Cochise County Sheriff's Office helped set up a safety perimeter around the device.

An explosives expert from Davis-Monthan Air Force Base examined the ammunition, determined it was live and detonated in place.

From wire reports

## FACES



# Friendship for laughs

HOPPER STONE, SMPSP/Lionsgate

Mila Kunis is Aubrey and Kate McKinnon is Morgan in the movie "The Spy Who Dumped Me."

Kunis and McKinnon get funny in 'The Spy Who Dumped Me'

By SONAYA KELLEY  
Los Angeles Times

**H**aving a conversation with Mila Kunis and Kate McKinnon is a lot like sitting in on an improv session at the Upright Citizens Brigade (where "Saturday Night Live" star McKinnon earned her stripes).

When asked how they prepared to play best friends in Lionsgate's action-comedy "The Spy Who Dumped Me," which opens Friday, Kunis and McKinnon looked at each other conspiratorially.

"We played a lot of trust games," Kunis began. "We jumped out of a plane together."

"We beat each other up," McKinnon chimed in.

"Just to see what would happen."

"We cried together."

"We laughed together," Kunis picked up.

"We did a seance," McKinnon deadpanned.

"Then we went to sleep together."

"And when we woke up ..." McKinnon began.

"We realized ..."

"Something had changed."

"And so that was the weekend that Kate and I became really good friends," Kunis finished.

Despite meeting for the first time on set, the two hit off instantly.

As Brian Grazer, who produced the film with Erica Huggins, recalls, "The minute we had our first read-through where they met each other for the first time, Mila rooted every single time that Kate scored. And every single time Mila scored, Kate got so much joy out of it. It was like one of these spectacular situations where they both rooted for each other as much as they rooted for themselves. And that's the best version of a partnership."

That chemistry, which Kunis says is impossible to predict in advance, elevated their portrayal as best friends swept up in an international conspiracy from



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being merely funny to believable and magnetic.

"I think any time you work on a film, you get a cast and you hope that the (stars) simply just get along," said Kunis. "And I think that in our case, we just got incredibly lucky that from the get-go we found each other entertaining. Kate made me laugh nonstop."

"I feel like we could just riff all day," said McKinnon.

For co-writer and director Sussanna Fogel, that authentic friendship between Audrey (Kunis) and Morgan (McKinnon) was instrumental in grounding the story and making it more about the bond between these women than about the titular breakup.

"It's become my lifetime passion as a writer to try to show female friendships in the way that I see them, which is as emotional and connected and deep," said Fogel. "I feel like most movies about female friends derive their conflict from an extension of the high school movie rivalries or there's some petty grievance: a competition over a guy or a wed-ding date or something. And I don't relate to any of that."

"I think when I was younger I probably had more friendship that were fraught in that way," she said. "But now my friends are basically my family. It's the family you choose. And I wanted to show the fun and love there."

## Avoiding clichés

Equally crucial was forging the tired trope of the caughtif or an "arbitrary friend breakup" as a plot device. "It's just fun to see two people that genuinely get along getting along," she said. "And they can still be an odd couple and different without having pretty conflicts. It was more fun to

watch them love each other."

Kunis and McKinnon pair well together because their opposing styles of comedy are complementary: Kunis as Audrey is neurotic and strait-laced while McKinnon, as always, is quirky and larger than life. The stars said that while the circumstances are extreme, the roles were not much of a stretch from their everyday personas.

"We did an autobiography," Kunis joked. "And it felt like it really captured our day-to-day really well."

"It was basically just me," McKinnon said of playing Morgan. "This is so rare that I read something and I see myself in it. It was a total joy, and I wouldn't say easy by any stretch because for me, being like myself is a little difficult."

For the actress, who had supporting roles in "Ghostbusters" and "Rough Night," laying so much of herself bare on screen was nerve-racking.

"This is the biggest role I've done in a film to date," McKinnon said. "I was nervous about playing a character that was so close to myself and working in a tone that was so grounded. It was absolutely transformative and one of the greatest experiences I've ever had, but I was nervous."

As for Audrey, Fogel wanted someone who seemed to have more going for her than her relationship. "I think it's tough especially because the catalyst for the plot is this breakup," said Fogel. "We're so used to seeing women in movies about a romance where they don't seem to have any inner fortitude. They're completely defined by their relationships, and it's hard to engage with those characters and relate to them."

"Mila is just somebody who you instantly feel has an inner core self and strength and confidence so you can push the breakup emotions without ever losing that toughness," Fogel said. "I think it was knowing that as much as the breakup could be devastating to her character, we're never going to lose her to that cliché."

## Allen: 'Last Man Standing' character is a centrist

From wire reports

"Last Man Standing" isn't rushing to pick up the "Roseanne" pro-Trump mantle when it starts life at its new network this fall.

Tim Allen, star of the comedy that was axed by ABC and picked up by Fox, said his character is a centrist who would support Trump administration policies that help his business.

But Mike Baxter probably isn't a vocal defender of President Donald Trump, Allen told TV critics Aug. 2.

Series producer Kevin Abbott said Allen's character is a conservative, but it's unlikely the show will address Trump one way or the other.

Allen chimed in teasingly, saying, "Oh yes, we will."

The comedian added that he's different than the character he plays on TV. For his own beliefs, Allen said, check out his Las Vegas stand-up act.

## Drake drops video chock full of cameos

Celebrities abound as Drake strolls through the streets of New Orleans in his "In My Feelings" video.

The social media challenge associated with the song is featured in the video, which was released Aug. 2. La La Anthony plays Drake's love interest and Phylicia Rashad is her mom. Comedian Shaggy, who created the challenge associated with the song, performs "The Shaggy Dance" throughout.

Some of the more popular videos created for the challenge are also featured at the end of the clip, including ones made by Will Smith, Ciara and DJ Khaled.

## Other news

■ Fox is developing two potential new series for its "24" drama



WILLY SANJUAN, INVISION/AP

Tim Allen participates in the "Last Man Standing" panel during the Fox Television Critics Association Summer Press Tour on Aug. 2.

franchise. Fox executives Dana Walden and Gary Newman told TV critics' meet-and-greets Aug. 2 that "24" is a "24" production. Howard Gordon and Brian Grazer are working on the ideas. One is a prequel to the original series and involves "24" creators Joel Surnow and Bob Cochran, said Walden. The other series is set in the legal world and would be a new take on the franchise, she said. The action unfolds in the 24 hours before a prisoner's execution and involve high "emotional stakes," Newman said.

■ Charlie Sheen says he can't afford his child-support payments, and he's asking a judge to cut him some slack. The reason? Hollywood and the IRS are jerks, him and the other sending him a very large bill. A hearing has been scheduled for September.

■ Actress-singer Jill Scott and comedian Michelle Buteau will star in Paramount Network's 2019 comedy "The First Wives Club." Scott and Buteau publicized the announcement on Twitter on Thursday by sharing photos of their respective scripts. The studio announced in April that the adaptation will be a 10-episode, half-hour dramedy.

## Actress says she cried after being forced to do a partially nude scene

By RACHEL DESANTIS  
New York Daily News

"Lost" star Evangeline Lilly said she was once "cornered" into doing a partially nude scene on the popular ABC drama — and that the experience was so traumatizing, it left her in tears.

Lilly, who played Kate on the critically acclaimed series, said the first time she was all but forced to act naked against her will was in Season 3.

"I had a bad experience on set with being basically cornered into doing a scene partially naked and I felt I had no choice in the matter," she told the Lost Boys podcast. "And I was mortified and I was trembling and I was, when it finished, I was crying my eyes out."

The actress, 38, did not specify to which episode she was referring, but she appears topless in the Season 3 episode "I Do" as she cuddles with Sawyer (Josh

Holloway) after the two have sex for the first time in a cage.

But that wasn't all — Lilly said that when a Season 4 episode called for Kate to undress again, she tried to fight it, to no avail.

"In Season 4, another scene came up where Kate was undressing, and I fought very hard to have that scene be under my control, and I failed to control it again," she said. "And so I then said,

"That's it. No more. You can write whatever you want; I won't do it. I will never take my clothes off on this show again.' And I didn't."

ABC did not immediately respond to a request for comment.

Lilly said that she now passes on any script that involves nudity because she doesn't feel she can be "comfortable and safe."

Though Kate was one of the most popular characters on "Lost," Lilly admitted she didn't always have a fan in her portrayal — and that Kate sometimes "irritated" the s\*\*\*" out of her.

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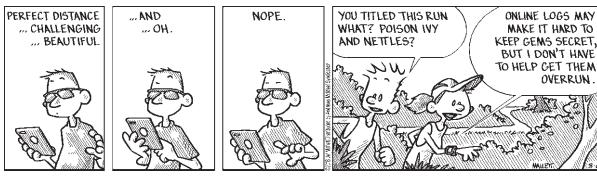
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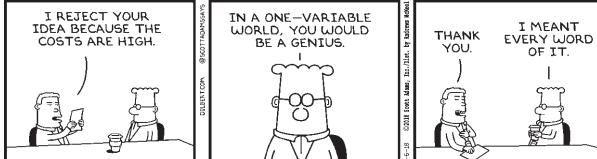
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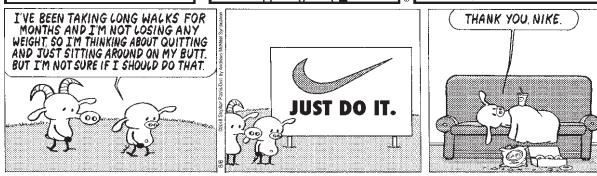
Frazz



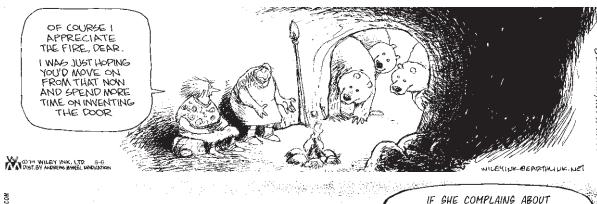
Dilbert



Pearls Before Swine



Non Sequitur



Candorville



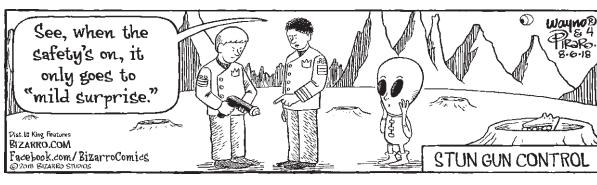
Carpe Diem



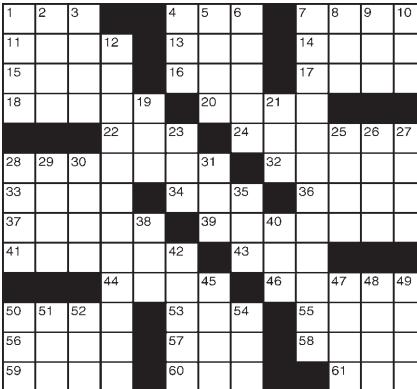
Beetle Bailey



Bizarro



## Eugene Sheffer Crossword



## ACROSS

1 Venomous viper  
4 Ump  
7 Siren  
11 Cager O'Neal, for short  
13 Earth Day mo.  
14 Starting  
15 Ballot attire  
16 Ms. Farrow  
17 Swank  
18 Dined at home  
20 Havana's land  
22 Darjeeling, e.g.  
24 Sense  
28 Donut filling  
32 Recess  
33 "I want for Christmas..."  
34 Understanding  
36 Port of Algeria  
37 Foolish  
39 Squirrel's snacks  
41 Kvetched  
43 Favorite  
44 Blue shade  
46 Lightheaded  
50 Voice in an iPhone  
53 Passing craze  
55 "Encore!"  
56 Mosque leader  
57 Monk's title  
58 Flair  
59 Dog biscuit shape

60 Candied veggie  
61 UFO fliers

## DOWN

1 Nick and Nora's dog  
2 Close  
3 Cracker spread  
4 Aries  
5 Grand tale  
6 Charlatan  
7 Part of an employee's benefits package  
8 Blond shade  
9 Miss Piggy's pronoun  
10 USMC rank  
12 End of the work day  
19 PBS funder  
21 Golfer Hogan

## Answer to Previous Puzzle

S	P	E	C	S	L	U	C	A	S
S	O	U	G	H	O	P	E	N	E
P	O	N	G	E	V	O	L	A	R
I	T	T	M	J	L	A	N	E	L
T	H	E	M	N	A	B	A	O	N
E	S	E	D	E	P	L	D	G	E
R	E	F	U	G	E	S	P	O	O
A	L	A	S	E	O	L	T	R	I
D	O	I	A	S	I	L	E	S	O
A	P	R	O	N	S	A	O	G	E
R	E	L	E	T	S	M	I	N	O
S	Y	R	I	A					
C	A	N	S						

## 8-6

## CRYPTOQUIP

W K G S   X L W Z   O T E X   L   B E H F D Z  
E O   G F H W G   J S L J   S L W   L I  
K W Z I J K B L D   G S L F Z   L I W

B E D E T : X L J B S Z W   F E J L J E Z G .  
Saturday's Cryptoquip: WHEN THE SPECTACULAR DAREDEVIL WAS PERFORMING, EVERYBODY WAS WATCHING IN STUNT DISBELIEF. Today's Cryptoquip Clue: G equals S

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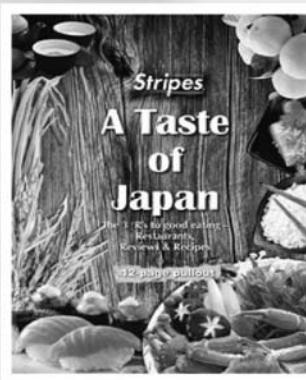
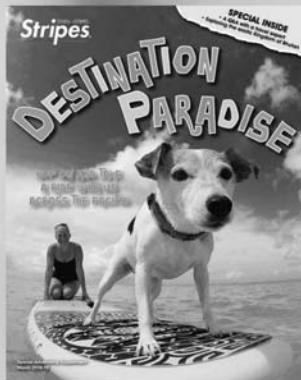
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## Golf

## World Golf Championships

Bridgestone Invitational  
Saturday

At Firestone (C) (South)

Akron, Ohio

Purse: \$10 million

Yardage: 7,400 yds. Par: 70

Third Round

Justin Thomas 65-64-67-196-14

Rory McIlroy 62-67-70-195-11

Jon Rahm 66-66-69-201-11

Max Homa 65-66-69-200-10

Rickie Fowler 63-68-70-201-9

Dustin Johnson 63-74-65-202-8

Tommy Fleetwood 66-66-69-203-7

Brooks Koepka 66-67-68-204-7

Rafa Cabrera Bello 68-67-69-204-6

Austin Lahiru 67-68-70-204-6

Luke List 65-68-71-204-6

Si Woo Kim 64-68-72-204-6

Matt Kuchar 68-70-67-205-5

Webb Simpson 69-65-71-205-5

Tommy Fleetwood 66-67-72-205-5

Ha-Tong Li 69-71-66-206-4

Dustin Johnson 69-71-66-206-4

Zach Johnson 69-70-67-206-4

Thorbjornsen 67-68-69-206-4

Robert MacIntyre 67-68-71-206-4

Ross Fisher 67-68-71-206-4

Bubba Watson 69-67-69-207-3

Guilherme Coelho 67-68-70-207-3

Kevin Na 65-72-70-207-3

Phil Mickelson 66-69-72-207-3

Brooks Koepka 66-68-73-207-3

Tiger Woods 66-68-73-207-3

Wade Ormsby 69-71-68-208-3

Minji Kang 68-69-71-208-3

Min-Hye Kang 68-71-69-208-3

Alex Noren 70-73-66-209-3

Cameron Smith 70-69-69-209-3

Kiradech Aphibarnrat 67-72-70-209-3

Hideki Matsuyama 67-72-70-209-3

Daniel Berger 67-71-71-209-3

Matthew Fitzpatrick 67-70-73-209-3

Patton Kizzire 68-67-70-209-3

•

## Women's British Open

Saturday

At Royal St. George's, St. Annes

Lytham St. Annes, England

Purse: \$3.25 million

Yardage: 6,700 yds. Par: 72

Third Round

a-amateur

Ponparnchai Phatnum 67-68-67-203-6

George Hall 67-68-69-204-6

Soo Yeon Ryu 69-69-67-205-11

Suzann Pettersen 69-69-71-206-10

Marina Higuchi 66-69-71-206-10

Minjee Lee 65-70-71-206-10

Brooke M. Henderson 65-70-71-206-10

Minji Kang 68-69-71-206-10

Phoebe Yeadon 67-69-71-206-10

Lydia Ko 67-71-70-207-10

Teresa Lu 67-69-73-207-9

Thitiporn Suwanwimonpat 69-68-70-208-9

Carlota Ciganda 70-69-70-208-9

Ariya Jutanugarn 71-69-70-209-10

Brittany Altomare 70-71-70-209-10

Lei Sheng 70-71-70-209-10

Minjee Lee 70-71-70-209-10

Pernilla Lindberg 70-71-70-209-10

Frannie Lee 72-68-70-209-10

P. Thanopabolayorn 73-71-69-213-3

Lizette Salas 73-71-71-213-3

Yoo-jin Kim 71-71-71-213-3

Amy Olson 72-70-71-213-3

Joy Johnson 71-70-72-213-3

Madeleine Sagstrom 69-70-74-213-3

Geoffroy 70-71-72-213-3

Han Kang 70-74-70-214-2

Mi Jung 70-74-70-214-2

Jenny Shin 70-74-70-214-2

Florencey Parker 68-74-70-214-2

Marina Alex 71-73-71-214-2

Caroline Ingles 73-70-72-215-1

Ryan O'Toole 72-71-72-215-1

Wei-Ling Hsu 70-71-74-215-1

Hy-Kyung Kim 70-71-74-215-1

•

3M Championship

Saturday

At TPC Twin Cities

Blaine, Minn.

Purse: \$1.2 million

Yardage: 7,000 yds. Par: 72

Second Round

Kenny Perry 66-66-126-18

Greg Chisholm 65-67-134-10

Tom Gillis 67-67-134-10

Lee Janzen 66-68-134-10

Jeff Smith 64-67-134-10

Tim Petruccio 70-65-135-9

Tony Fenzl 69-66-135-9

Hayden Haas 67-68-135-9

Wes Short, Jr. 67-68-135-9

Joe Dufner 65-67-135-9

Robert Mediate 68-69-136-9

Scott Parel 67-69-136-9

•

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Buffalo 0 0 0 .000 0 0

Miami 0 0 0 .000 0 0

New England 0 0 0 .000 0 0

N.Y. Jets 0 0 0 .000 0 0

South

Houston 0 0 0 .000 0 0

Indianapolis 0 0 0 .000 0 0

Jacksonville 0 0 0 .000 0 0

Tennessee 0 0 0 .000 0 0

North

Baltimore 1 0 1 .000 17 16

Cincinnati 0 0 0 .000 0 0

Cleveland 0 0 0 .000 0 0

Pittsburgh 0 0 0 .000 0 0

West

Dallas 0 0 0 .000 0 0

N.Y. Giants 0 0 0 .000 0 0

Philadelphia 0 0 0 .000 0 0

Washington 0 0 0 .000 0 0

South

Atlanta 0 0 0 .000 0 0

Carolina 0 0 0 .000 0 0

New Orleans 0 0 0 .000 0 0

Tampa Bay 0 0 0 .000 0 0

North

Chicago 0 0 0 .000 16 17

Detroit 0 0 0 .000 0 0

Green Bay 0 0 0 .000 0 0

Minnesota 0 0 0 .000 0 0

West

Arizona 0 0 0 .000 0 0

L.A. Rams 0 0 0 .000 0 0

San Francisco 0 0 0 .000 0 0

Friday, Aug. 10

Atlanta at New England

Seattle at Arizona

•

## Tennis

## Citi Open

Saturday

At Washington

Purse: ATP, \$1.89 million (WTV500); WTA, \$1.75 million (J500)

Surface: Hard-Outdoor

Singles

Men

Andrej Rublev (RUS), final, Russia

Kudla (USA), final, U.S.A.

Minji Lee (KOR), final, South Korea

Alexander Zverev (GER), final, Germany

Stefanos Tsitsipas (GRE), final, Greece

Andrey Rublev (RUS), final, Russia

Minji Lee (KOR), final, South Korea

Alexander Zverev (GER), final, Germany

Women

Svetlana Kuznetsova (RUS), final, Russia

Yulia Putintseva (KAZ), final, Kazakhstan

Denisa Allertova (CZE), final, Czech Republic

Caroline Garcia (FRA), final, France

Elise Mertens (BEL), final, Belgium

Caroline Garcia (FRA), final, France

Women's Doubles

Fabio Fognini (ITA), final, Italy

Elise Mertens (BEL) and Caroline Garcia (FRA), final, Belgium

Women's Doubles

Caroline Garcia (FRA) and Elise Mertens (BEL), final, France

Women's Doubles

Caroline Garcia (FRA) and Elise Mertens (BEL), final, France

Women's Doubles

Caroline Garcia (FRA) and Elise Mertens (BEL), final, France

Women's Doubles

Caroline Garcia (FRA) and Elise Mertens (BEL), final, France

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Women's Doubles

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Women's Doubles

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Women's Doubles

Caroline Garcia (FRA) and Elise Mertens (BEL), final, France

Women's Doubles

Caroline Garcia (FRA) and Elise Mertens (BEL), final, France

Women's Doubles

Caroline Garcia (FRA) and Elise Mertens (BEL), final, France

Women's Doubles

Caroline Garcia (FRA) and Elise Mertens (BEL), final, France

Women's Doubles

Caroline Garcia (FRA) and Elise Mertens (BEL), final, France

Women's Doubles

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Women's Doubles

## SPORTS BRIEFS/COLLEGE FOOTBALL



DAVID DERMER/AP

Justin Thomas watches his tee shot on the fifth hole during the third round of the Bridgestone Invitational at Firestone Country Club on Saturday. Thomas leads the tournament.

## Briefly

# Thomas takes over at Firestone as Woods fades

Associated Press

AKRON, Ohio — Justin Thomas pulled away from a crowd with five birdies in the middle of his round for a 3-under 67 and a three-shot lead going into the final round of the Bridgestone Invitational as he goes after his third victory this season on the PGA Tour.

No one could keep pace with Thomas, least of all Tiger Woods.

Starting the third round Saturday five shots behind, Woods didn't make a birdie until a 12-foot putt on the 12th hole, and he didn't make another. He wound up with a 73, leaving him 11 shots back and ending his streak of 10 straight rounds at par or better dating to the U.S. Open.

"It was very similar to the first day," Woods said. "Wasn't very sharp that first day, but I made everything. So today was about the same, and I didn't make anything."

That wasn't a problem for Thomas, whose six birdies included a chip-in from 30 feet behind the green on the par-3 12th.

He was at 14-under 196, three shots clear of Rory McIlroy (67) and Ian Poulter (70).

Thomas made an unusual birdie on the par-5 second by hitting his tee shot in the first cut of the third fairway. Blocked by trees, he opted for a 5-wood that started out toward the third tee and sliced over the trees to the rough, pin-high about 15 feet away from an up-and-down.

After a bogey from the trees at No. 3, Thomas went at a back pin on the tough fourth hole and the ball bounded over the green in thick rough. He chopped at his chip and did well to run it 10 feet by the hole, making it for par. He bogeyed the next from a bunker, and fell three shots behind, but that par save on No. 4 helped by not dropping a shot, and by un-

derstanding how the course was played.

Jason Day had a 69 and was four shots behind. Marc Leishman, who played alongside Woods, shot 67 and joined Kyle Stanley (70) five shots behind.

## Logano wins Xfinity race at Watkins Glen

WATKINS GLEN, N.Y. — This time, Joey Logano survived the rain.

Logano passed Penske Racing teammate Brad Keselowski on a restart in the closing laps Saturday and held off his final challenge to win the NASCAR Xfinity Series race at Watkins Glen International in a race that was red-flagged for rain, forcing the drivers to briefly run on grooved rain tires.

Logano, who started from pole, took control with under 10 laps to go in the 82-lap race around the 2.45-mile layout. He dived to the inside on the first turn, making it three-wide going through the 90-degree right-hander. The move forced Keselowski, who was leading, wide as Logano assumed the turn spot, leaving his teammate behind.

It became a two-car race as Keselowski recovered and the two pulled away. With four laps to go, Keselowski was on Logano's back bumper as the two sped nose-to-tail. Keselowski lost his chance to challenge for the victory when he skidded out on the first turn with under three laps to go.

## Absent Gordon in contact with teammate

BEREA, Ohio — Josh Gordon hasn't reported to the Cleveland Browns training camp, but his presence is being felt on the field.

Wide receiver Rashard Higgins is wearing Gordon's

gear under his uniform at each practice.

"That's my locker buddy, and I'm wearing his shirts every day," Higgins said Saturday. "That's why I feel like I've got superpowers when I come out here."

Gordon remains away from the team as part of his treatment for drug and alcohol addictions. An NFL spokesman said the former Pro Bowl wideout has not been suspended.

Browns general manager John Dorsey and coach Hue Jackson remain confident that Gordon will return at some point, but no timetable has been set. Cleveland opens its preseason Thursday at the New York Giants.

In other NFL news:

• Green Bay Packers left tackle David Bakhtiari was taken off the field on a cart Saturday, dampening the spirits at Family Night at Lambeau Field.

Bakhtiari walked to the cart with his left shoe removed.

"I don't have enough information to answer that," coach Mike McCarthy said about the severity of the injury. "I know it's his ankle but that's all I know."

## Golden Knights sign Karlsson to \$5.25M deal

LAS VEGAS — William Karlsson and the Vegas Golden Knights avoided arbitration with a \$5.25 million, one-year contract for the high-scoring forward.

General manager George McPhee announced the deal Saturday. Karlsson gets a significant raise from his previous \$1 million salary.

The 25-year-old Karlsson set career highs with 43 goals and 35 assists in 82 games last season, helping Vegas win the Pacific Division and reach the Stanley Cup Final.

# Alabama's Hurts finally gets his say

By JOHN ZENOR  
Associated Press

TUSCALOOSA, Ala. — Jalen Hurts finally got to give his own take on Alabama's much talked about quarterback situation.

Since getting benched for the second half of the national title game, the two-year starter with the sparkling record has had to remain silent publicly about the situation. Hurts was blunt in his first chance to speak with reporters since the aftermath of that game in Atlanta at Saturday's media day.

"This whole spring ever since the game, (coaches) kind of wanted to let it play out and I guess didn't think it was a thing to let it die down like there wasn't something there," Hurts said. "But that's always been the elephant in the room. For me, no one came up to me the whole spring, coaches included, no one asked me how I felt."

"No one asked me what was on my mind. No one asked me how I felt about the things that were going on. Nobody asked me what my future held. That's that. So now it's like when we try to handle the situation now, for me, it's kind of late, it's too late, the narrative has already been created."

The narrative is that he and Tua Tagovailoa are engaged in college football's most talked about quarterback battle. Then-freshman Tagovailoa came off the bench in the second half to lift Alabama to a come-from-behind win over Georgia, heaving the game-winning touchdown pass in overtime.

And the Jalen-vs.-Tua buzz hasn't died down. They spoke to separate groups of reporters at the same time not far from each other.

Hurts' father, Averion, said in the spring that if Hurts didn't win the job, he'd become the "biggest free agent in college football history."

Asked at Southeastern Conference media days if Hurts would be with the team for the opener against Louisville, Crimson Tide coach Nick Saban said he had "no idea."

Then he told ESPN that Hurts later came to him and said he was staying.

Hurts said that's not exactly

how it went down.

"I actually went to talk to him about his comments (from SEC Media Days) on if he didn't know I'd be here for the first game," Hurts said. "We had a conversation about that. I was kind of shocked that he said that. Me coming at him and seeing what was going on and all that then, I told him, and I told him in June, that I'd be here."

"It was never a decision that had to be made in regard to me leaving."

Hurts, who is 26-2 as a starter with two playoff trips, said it wouldn't make much sense to leave when he's scheduled to graduate in December.

He didn't pull too many punches when he did get a chance to talk.

"There's been a lot of rumors, a lot of speculation about things that have gone on this summer," Hurts said. "The funny part for me is the people making decisions for me. It's actually kind of good to see you all (reporters), I kind of feel like they've been hiding me from you all. There's been a lot going on a lot of things being said. Everybody has something to say, everybody has an opinion. The funniest thing about it is I've never said a thing."

"I kept my mouth closed, didn't say anything to anyone. Regardless, people are believing the things that are being said, it's hard to believe something when the No. 1 source didn't say anything."

That changed on Saturday, while Tagovailoa also talked to team beat writers for the first time in months after missing much of spring with a thumb injury on his left, throwing hand.

He told a group of kids on a trip back to Hawaii that he would have considered transferring if he hadn't played in the title game. Now he says that was "taken out of context."

Tagovailoa said he and Hurts don't discuss the competition.

"We want to be positive because the team looks at that," he said. "The team looks at what we say (in the media) as well. I just don't want anything to ruin our relationship, and I don't think anything between me and Jalen is bad."



BUTCH DILL/AP

Alabama quarterbacks Jalen Hurts, right, and Tua Tagovailoa run drills during practice on Saturday in Tuscaloosa, Ala.

## MMA/MLB

Henry Cejudo celebrates his win against Demetrious Johnson, left, in their UFC flyweight title bout.

PHOTO BY CHRIS CARLSON/AP



## Cejudo upsets 'Mighty Mouse'

Johnson's 13-fight win streak stopped

By GREG BEACHAM

Associated Press

LOS ANGELES — Henry Cejudo pulled off one of the most impressive upsets in mixed martial arts history at UFC 227.

T.J. Dillashaw simply repeated himself, only quicker.

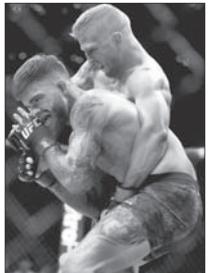
Cejudo ended Demetrious Johnson's nearly six-year reign as the UFC flyweight champion Saturday night at Staples Center, earning a split-decision victory over the most dominant active champion in the sport.

In the main event moments later, Dillashaw defended his bantamweight title with a vicious first-round stoppage of former champ Cody Garbrandt, beating his friend-turned-rival for the second time in nine months.

Cejudo (13-2) is an Olympic gold medal-winning wrestler who started training in mixed martial arts only five years ago, but he used five takedowns and relentless offense to earn the decision over the fighter widely considered the pound-for-pound best in MMA. Cejudo won 48-47 on two of the three judges' scorecards to beat Johnson (27-3), who had won 13 consecutive fights since 2012 and had defended his 125-pound belt a UFC-record 11 straight times.

"This is a dream come true, from Olympic gold medalist to UFC champion," Cejudo said. "I was born right here in Los Angeles, in a two-bedroom apartment. So from the bottom of my heart, thank you to these fans in California for their support."

In the main event moments later, Dillashaw (17-3) exchanged



**T.J. Dillashaw, top, holds Cody Garbrandt during their UFC bantamweight title bout in Los Angeles on Saturday. Dillashaw stopped Garbrandt in the first round, defeating the former champion for the second time in nine months to retain the belt.**

furious strikes with Garbrandt (11-2) from the opening minute. Dillashaw finished it by stunning Garbrandt with a series of blows, dropping the challenger and then battering him against the cage until referee Herb Dean stopped it with 50 seconds left in the round.

Dillashaw and Garbrandt trained together in Sacramento until 2014, when Dillashaw left in a messy breakup with the Team Alpha Male gym. The fighters met for the first time last November, and Dillashaw stopped Garbrandt in the second round to take the bantamweight belt.

The rematch was just as violent, but even more decisive.

"This cements my legacy as the greatest bantamweight of all time," Dillashaw said. "I could tell that Cody was already hurt when we started that exchange,

**'This is a dream come true, from Olympic gold medalist to UFC champion.'**

Henry Cejudo  
UFC flyweight champion

and then I lined up the shot. I got a little excited when I should have have slowed down and finished him, but I got the job done."

Dillashaw held the 135-pound title belt for nearly two years before losing it to Dominick Cruz on a debatable split decision in early 2016. Garbrandt then took the belt from Cruz in December 2016, less than two years after he entered the UFC.

After Cejudo's victory, the new 125-pound champ called for a superfight with the winner of the 135-pound main event. When Dillashaw was told of Cejudo's challenge, he replied: "Henry Cejudo! Let's go, baby!"

Johnson, who didn't appear to be upset with the judges' call, was the only flyweight champion in UFC history. Although successful in striking, Johnson didn't have his usual resourceful performance in his return from a career-long layoff of 10 months. Johnson knocked out Cejudo in the first round of their first meeting in 2016, but Cejudo showed off everything he had learned in the interim.

Cejudo was born in Los Angeles, and he won an Olympic gold medal in freestyle wrestling as a 21-year-old phenomenon in 2008, becoming the youngest American to win a gold medal. He only started training in mixed martial arts in January 2013 — four months after Johnson first won his UFC belt.

## Red Sox beat Yankees in third straight game

By JIMMY GOLEN  
Associated Press

BOSTON — The Red Sox fan who brought a broom to Fenway Park to cheer Boston on to a sweep of the rival Yankees will have to wait one more day.

Still, he was lucky to have it on Saturday, using it to retrieve J.D. Martinez's home run ball from the light stanchion above the Green Monster.

"It's been a lot of fun pitching with these guys behind me," said Nathan Eovaldi, who pitched eight scoreless innings to help the Red Sox beat New York for the third game in a row and expand their lead in the AL East to season-high 8½ games with a 4-1 victory.

"We've been able to score runs in the ballgame, which makes it a little easier pitching," said Eovaldi, who has pitched 15 shutout innings for Boston since he was acquired from Tampa Bay last month. "And the defense is amazing."

Mitch Moreland started in place of hot-hitting Steve Pearce and hit a homer of his own, and Martinez hit his major league-leading 33rd of the year for the Red Sox, who go for a four-game sweep on Sunday night with David Price scheduled to face Masahiro Tanaka.

"This is a huge series for us," said Eovaldi (5-4), who pitched eight innings of three-hit ball, striking out four and walking one. "We're going to be playing these guys a couple more times down the road. For us to take the first three games in the series is big," he said. "Price is building off his last start, so hopefully we're going to be able to take advantage."

One night after Rick Porcello threw an 86-pitch, one-hit complete game, Eovaldi started with



MICHAEL Dwyer/AP

**Red Sox starter Nathan Eovaldi reacts after striking out the New York Yankees' Gleyber Torres to retire the side in the seventh inning on Saturday in Boston.**

three no-hit innings and left after eight with a 4-0 lead. Closer Craig Kimbrel held on through a shaky ninth inning to send the Yankees to their season-high four straight loss.

"There's no question that they've established themselves right now as the best team in this league," New York manager Aaron Boone said. "That said, if you walk through our room right now, to a man, we know we can absolutely play with them. We know that when we're at our best we can beat them."

The Yankees are missing Aaron Judge and Gary Sanchez, and they have to shuffle their rotation when J.A. Happ contracted hand, foot and mouth disease just as Sonny Gray was sent to the bullpen because of ineffectiveness.

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## MLB

# Astros hand Dodgers worst home loss in 95 years

Houston starter McCullers leaves game with right elbow discomfort

BY BETH HARRIS  
Associated Press

LOS ANGELES — The Astros are doing more than just getting by without injured Jose Altuve and Carlos Correa.

Josh Reddick's three-run homer highlighted Houston's seven-run eighth, and the Astros routed the Dodgers 14-0 to hand Los Angeles its biggest shutout loss at home in 95 years Saturday night.

"It feels really good when you're without your two big horses in the middle of your lineup and you can still do stuff like that," Reddick said. "You can still do something special."

The AL West-leading Astros pounded out 13 hits in winning their fourth in a row and stretching their lead to five games over Oakland.

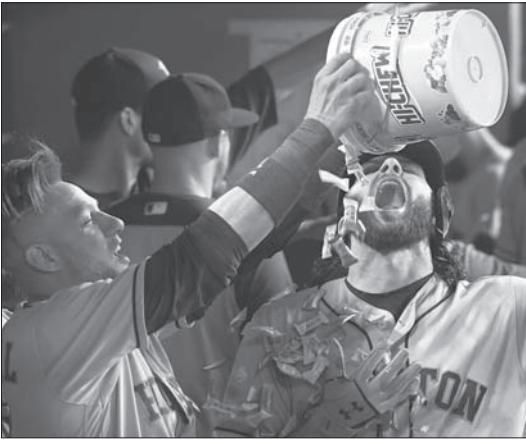
"Pretty explosive night for us," manager AJ Hinch said. "We're a little banged up so it's important for us to just keep putting up wins. To shut them out feels good."

The only bright on the Astros' night was starter Lance McCullers Jr. leaving after 60 pitches because of right elbow discomfort. He allowed two hits over four innings in his first start at Dodger Stadium since Game 7 of last year's World Series, won by the Astros.

McCullers will return to Houston on Sunday morning to be examined.

"I felt some abnormal soreness and stiffness that I wouldn't feel during the game," he said. "I couldn't have felt any better to start the game, which is the most frustrating part."

The Dodgers were limited to three hits in losing their fifth straight regular-season



JOHN MCCLAIN/ASSOCIATED PRESS

Houston's Yuli Gurriel, left, pours candy on Jake Marisnick, who hit a two-run home run against the Dodgers during the ninth inning on Saturday in Los Angeles.

game to Houston since 2015. It was their worst shutout loss at home since July 22, 1923, when the Brooklyn Robins lost to Boston at Ebbets Field, according to Stats LLC.

"The game's over," Los Angeles manager Dave Roberts said. "I guess that's the silver lining."

The Astros batted around twice in the

game, including the eighth when John Axford was charged with six runs in a rocky Dodgers debut after being acquired from Toronto at the trade deadline. Axford, a 10-year veteran, failed to record a strikeout on 27 pitches and hit left fielder Tony Kemp, forcing him to leave the game with a bruised right foot.

"It's the worst outing of my entire ca-

reer," Axford said. "I wasn't helping myself walking guys and hitting a guy. I have a little bit more to offer than what's shown out there."

Jake Marisnick ran for Kemp in the eighth and hit a two-run homer in the ninth. Houston fans began chanting loudly and the remaining Dodgers fans from the sellout crowd of 53,119 booted in an attempt to drown them out.

"We're a team that's capable of putting up those kind of numbers," Reddick said. "These at-bats continue to be contagious for us and carry on from one guy to the next."

Brad Peacock (2-4) got the win with two innnings of relief.

Marvin Gonzalez homered on the first pitch from Kenta Maeda (7-7) leading off the second for the Astros' first run.

"It's huge to beat a team like that," Gonzalez said.

Houston won the series opener 2-1 on Friday and could complete a sweep on Sunday when newly acquired reliever Roberto Osuna is expected to be activated. He is coming off a 75-game suspension for violating MLB's domestic violence policy.

The Astros improved their MLB-best road record to 39-17, having won nine of their last 11 away from home. They equaled their largest margin of victory this season.

## Roundup

# Angels lose amid news of Scioscia's expected departure

Associated Press

CLEVELAND — Corey Kluber pitched a three-hitter for his first shutout this season and new arrival Leonys Martin homered again as the Cleveland Indians beat the Los Angeles Angels 3-0 Saturday.

After the game, there was a report that Los Angeles Angels manager Mike Scioscia is expected to step down at the end of this season. The report by Ken Renshaw of The Athletic cited unidentified major league sources.

The 59-year-old Scioscia is the longest-tenured manager in the majors, guiding the Angels since 2000. They are 55-57 this year.

Kluber (14-6) matched zeros for five innings with Felix Pena (1-3), who carried a no-hitter into the sixth inning before Martin led off with a homer. Martin has two homers in three games since coming to Cleveland in a trade with Detroit.

The Angels' All-Star outfields Mike Trout missed his third straight game with a sore wrist.

**Reds 7-2, Nationals 1-6:** Washington slugger Bryce Harper was forced to leave soon after being hit by a pitch, then visiting Cincinnati star Joey Votto went wild when he got drilled in a testy second game won by the



TONY DEJAK/AP

The Indians' Leonys Martin reacts after hitting a solo home run off Los Angeles Angels starting pitcher Felix Pena in the sixth inning on Saturday in Cleveland. Martin has two homers in three games since coming to the Indians in a trade with Detroit.

Nationals.

Harper was hit in the right kneecap in the sixth by a pitch from Austin Brice. Harper initially struggled to put any weight on his leg, but made his way to first base.

But Harper labored defensively, chasing after a double in the seventh and was immediately re-

placed by Adam Eaton.

In the eighth, Votto was hit for the second time in the game and gestured at pitcher Ryan Madson as he took first base. After being retired on a forceout at second to end the inning, Votto waved at Washington's dugout, prompting plate umpire A.J. Fletcher to warn both teams.

**Phillies 8, Marlins 3:** Carlos Santana had three hits, including one of host Philadelphia's four homers, and Zach Eflin allowed three runs in eight strong innnings.

The Phillies won their fourth straight to move 1 1/2 games ahead of Atlanta for first in the NL East.

**Cubs 5, Padres 4:** Kyle Schwarber and Anthony Rizzo homered in a five-run second inning and Chicago held off visiting San Diego.

Jason Heyward added three hits and an RBI for the NL Central leaders.

**Cardinals 8, Pirates 4:** At Pittsburgh, Jeffery Wright drove in three runs while Kolten Wong, just off the disabled list, and Yadier Molina both had three hits to lead St. Louis.

Matt Carpenter doubled and tied a career high with his 28th home run, a solo shot in the ninth.

**Brewers 8, Rockies 4:** Travis Shaw hit a grand slam during host Milwaukee's six-run first inning. The Brewers won for the fourth time in six games stayed one back of NL Central-leading Chicago.

**Twins 8, Royals 2:** At Minneapolis, Max Kepler had three hits, including a two-run homer that put Minnesota ahead to stay, and Jose Berrios threw seven

strong innnings.

**White Sox 2, Rays 1:** Tim Anderson scored when third baseman Matt Duffy made a throwing error on Leury Garcia's two-strike bunt in the ninth inning, sending visiting Chicago to its third straight win.

**Blue Jays 5, Mariners 1:** Marco Estrada baffled Seattle's struggling bats with his mix of off-speed pitches, taking a no-hitter into the seventh inning and leading Toronto to the road win.

**Diamondbacks 9, Giants 3:** Nick Ahmed homered twice and had four RBIs, Steven Souza Jr. drove in three more runs and Arizona jumped on visiting San Francisco early.

**Athletics 2, Tigers 1:** Khris Davis hit his 30th home run and ninth since the All-Star break, Matt Chapman also went deep and host Oakland beat Detroit.

**Mets 3, Braves 0:** Kevin Gausman was outpitched in his Braves debut by a blossoming Zack Wheeler, and New York stopped visiting Atlanta's five-game winning streak.

**Rangers 3, Orioles 1:** Joey Gallo and Rougned Odor both homered for the third straight game, and Mike Minor worked an efficient seven innings for host Texas.

## NFL

# Titans sign two safeties, not Reid

Former 49er had flight issues, missed workout

BY TERESA M. WALKER  
Associated Press

NASHVILLE, Tenn. — Kenny Vaccaro says he believes fellow safety Eric Reid should be on a team playing in the NFL. Needing a job himself, the veteran is very happy that the Tennessee Titans signed him instead.

Vaccaro signed a one-year deal with the Titans on Saturday morning and was with them for individual drills at practice at Nissan Stadium hours later. He had been waiting for a team to sign him since his contract with New Orleans expired in March.

"This has been a long time coming for me," Vaccaro said. "I was waiting on the right opportunity. I was fortunate that one opened up here so that we could get a deal done. I'm ready to work."

The Titans also signed safety Jason Thompson after placing safety Johnathan Cyprien on injured reserve Friday with a torn left ACL.

Reid, who has been looking for a job since March himself, remains unsigned since his own rookie contract expired in March with the San Francisco 49ers. He filed a claim this spring after visiting with Cincinnati, arguing he was unsigned as a result of collusion by NFL owners over his protests of police brutality and racial inequality by kneeling during the national anthem.

"He's a great man," Vaccaro said of Reid. "He's a good family man, and a great dude. He needs to be on a team. He'll get on a team. I believe in him."

Reid was headed to Nashville to work out for the Titans on Friday but reportedly had flight issues. Titans coach Mike Vrabel said he'd leave questions on what happened to Reid's workout to Reid

and his agent and general manager Jon Robinson.

"Unfortunately, I wasn't able to see him," Vrabel said. "So that's really all I can comment on. I'll let Eric and his camp comment, and I'll let Jon take care of it on ours side."

The 6-foot Vaccaro spent the past five years as a starter with New Orleans, starting 67 games with eight interceptions, 7½ sacks and four forced fumbles. The Saints drafted him 13th overall in 2013 out of Texas. Vrabel said Vaccaro didn't look at times last year like the safety had earlier in his career but had a great workout for the Titans.

"So what we expect is that he's a pro, and he comes in and learns what to do quickly," Vrabel said. "We'll work him in there and see where he can help us. He's made plays in the National Football League, and it seems like he's starting off with a great attitude."

Vaccaro said he's a competitive person who knows he has to catch up with his new teammates in a secondary featuring All-Pro safety Kevin Byard and cornerbacks Malcolm Butler, Logan Ryan and Adoree Jackson.

"There's a lot of good players here," Vaccaro said. "They're loaded. Dean Pees' defense, the stuff we're going to run, it's just a good fit. I've got a good feeling about it. I haven't got to practice yet. I did a lot of different things at NOLA — nickel, dime, safety, back deep at some point, I've been in every situation."

Thompson has spent time with New England, Chicago, Seattle and Dallas since coming into the NFL as an undrafted free agent out of Utah in 2017.

AP Pro Football Writer Rob Maaddi contributed to this report.



SETH WENIG/AP

New York Jets quarterback Sam Darnold throws during practice at training camp in Florham Park, N.J., on Thursday. Darnold got plenty of work in the team's annual scrimmage on Saturday.

## Darnold solid in spotlight during Jets scrimmage

BY DENNIS WASZAK JR.  
Associated Press

PISCATAWAY, N.J. — Sam Darnold got plenty of work in the spotlight — and under the lights — in the New York Jets' annual scrimmage.

And the rookie quarterback didn't disappoint.

Darnold got the bulk of the snaps in team drills at Rutgers' High Point Solutions Stadium on Saturday night, practicing in front of the general public for the first time. He was 9-for-11 for 89 yards during five possessions, showing off his arm strength and also nifty playmaking ability with his legs. He fumbled and took three "sacks," but it was an overall positive performance for the No. 3 overall draft pick.

"He got a lot work with the third group," coach Todd Bowles said. "That was our plan to play a lot of the young guys tonight. That was part of catching him up to speed. So, we'll look at the film and we'll see what happened, but he's grasping the offense pretty well and we'll go from there."

Darnold sat out the first three training camp practice because of a contract impasse before signing a four-year, \$30.25 million deal Monday.

The former USC star is competing with Josh McCown and Teddy Bridgewater for the starting job and was a bit behind because of the early absences. But Darnold is making up for the lost time with each day.

"It's only been barely a week for him," Bowles said. "He's getting better every day."

On a third-and-2 on one possession, Darnold took off as the defense closed in on him and scrambled for 9 yards — punctuated by a nice slide.

"Some of the things he did in college as well — extending plays," Bowles said. "And it's good to have good feet in this league as well as an arm."

Darnold is also impressing his teammates, including wide receiver Jermaine Kearse, who could end up on the receiving end of lots of the young quarterback's passes at some point this season.

"He's an athletic guy," Kearse said. "He's just as accurate on the run as he is in the pocket, so that's something he'll utilize to his advantage and it'll help to extend plays. When there's a situation where he gets forced out of the pocket, it allows us to find areas to get open. He keeps his eyes down the field,

so that's a good thing for us."

Darnold is still behind McCown and Bridgewater on the depth chart, but will be given every opportunity to claim the No. 1 spot by the time the Jets open the regular season at Detroit on Sept. 10.

"He's just got to keep his head down," Kearse said, "and keep try to learn as much as can and make the most of the opportunities that he gets."

**Under center:** McCown went 3-for-3 for 69 yards and a touchdown to Bilal Powell, who took a short pass and took it 52 yards for a touchdown. It appeared that Brandon Copeland might have "sacked" McCown — there's no contact on quarterbacks in practices — but the refs ruled the play a TD.

Bridgewater was 7-for-7 for 63 yards with no TDs or interceptions, but took four "sacks."

**Young standouts:** Darnold wasn't the only rookie to have a good night on the field. Running back Trenton Cannon, the team's sixth-round pick out of Virginia State, continued a strong camp with runs of 18 and 14 yards while flashing terrific speed. Tight end Chris Herndon, a fourth-round out of Miami, had four catches and could end up being the starter at the position.

**Special TD:** Early in team drills, the Jets provided a cool moment for 6-year-old Gio Toribio. The Ossining, New York, native is cancer-free after being diagnosed with Stage 3 anaplastic large cell lymphoma two years ago. Toribio was brought onto the field, took the football from McCown — with the crowd cheering "Gio! Gio!" — and the Jets escorted him 50 yards all the way to the end zone before getting high-fives from the players. Linebacker Darren Lee had invited Toribio and his family to attend the practice after previously meeting them.

**Injuries:** Bowles said LT Kelvin Beachum is "week to week" with what the coach called "a sore foot." Beachum was in a walking boot on the sideline. He was replaced on the first-team offense by Ben Jajala. ... Other players to not play included: WR Quincy Enunwa, WR Terrelle Pryor, S Marcus Maye, NT Steve McLendon, TE Jordan Leggett, WR Charone Peake, OL Austin Golson, DL Deon Simon, LB Kevin Pierre-Louis, S Kacy Rodgers II, CB Jeremy Clark and CB Parry Nickerson.



BEN MARGOT/AP

Free agent safety Eric Reid couldn't get a flight to Tennessee to work out for the Titans, who signed two other safeties on Saturday.

## PRO FOOTBALL HALL OF FAME

## Owens: No regrets about personal induction

TO explains decision to eschew Canton: 'Writers disregarded the system'

BY TERESA M. WALKER  
Associated Press

CHATTANOOGA, Tenn. — Terrell Owens came in wearing a suit spotted with the Pro Football Hall of Fame logo and swapped that out for the prized gold jacket.

His bust? That remained 600 miles away in Canton, Ohio, along with the seven other members of this year's Hall of Fame class, leaving the stage at the University of Tennessee at Chattanooga all alone to Owens.

And yes, the man known as T.O. later brought out a big bucket of popcorn.

Owens entered the Pro Football Hall of Fame in a celebration uniquely his own Saturday afternoon at his alma mater before approximately 3,000 fans who frequently cheered, chanted "T.O." and gave him the occasional standing ovation. Owens also made clear why he chose to enter the Hall of Fame with a ceremony in Chattanooga instead of with Ray Lewis, Randy Moss and former Eagles teammate Brian Dawkins in Ohio.

"A lot of people say that I may



MARK HUMPHREY/AP

Former wide receiver Terrell Owens holds a street sign after a road was named for him following his Pro Football Hall of Fame speech on Saturday. Instead of speaking at the Hall of Fame events in Canton, Ohio, Owens celebrated his induction at the University of Tennessee at Chattanooga, where he played football, basketball and ran track.

regret not being in Canton 10, 15, 20 years from now," Owens said. "But just like my choice to be here today, I choose not to live in regret. I will leave a legacy that will leave an imprint on the world forever."

Owens used part of a speech

lasting about 39 minutes to explain why he was in Chattanooga instead of Canton, addressing the "elephant in the room."

"It's not because of how many times it took for me to be voted to the hall," said Owens, who got in on his third try — the same as Joe

Namath, for example. "It's about the mere fact that the sports writers are not in alignment with the mission and core values of the Hall of Fame."

"These writers disregarded the system, the criteria and bylaws in which guys are inducted, and ultimately the true meaning of the Hall of Fame and what it represents. I wanted to take a stand so the next guy coming after me will not have to go through what I and others have gone through. Whether it's three years or 45 years, you should get what you rightfully earned."

Only one person makes a speech in Canton to introduce an inductee. By holding his own ceremony, Owens heard short speeches from five coaches, including three former position coaches, with James Kirksey and Ray Sherman from the NFL. The University named a street after the Hall of Fame receiver.

The wide receiver who ranked second in NFL history with 15,934 yards receiving and third with 153 touchdown catches thanked everyone from his late grandmother and mother to coaches from his high school days in Alexander City, Alabama, through his time in Chattanooga and into the NFL. At times, he was grateful for help provided along the way, cited a Bible verse from Deuteronomy, and even thanked people who "defamed" him behind his back and teammates who hated him.

"This is for you," Owens said. Near the end of his speech, Owens asked anyone who had ever felt isolated, misunderstood or bullied to stand up. Then Owens encouraged them not to be afraid to be themselves.

"We have more commonalities than differences. This entire speech you thought was about me, this was for you," Owens said.

## Together: Ceremony marked by emotional acceptance speeches

## FROM BACK PAGE

time with that thing, that Lombardi, it's a confirmation I am living proof of the impossible."

A first-year nominee, Lewis was selected 26th overall in the 1996 draft — what were other teams thinking? He wasn't even Baltimore's first choice: Jonathan Ogden was, and the big tackle made the Hall of Fame in 2013.

His impact was immediate, both on the field, in the locker room, and even in pre-game introductions, when his "squirrel dance" fired up fans and teammates alike. He and Ogden even did a short version on the stage.

Lewis was the first player with 40 sacks and 30 interceptions in a career. An eight-time All-Pro and inside linebacker on the 2005 NFL All-Decade Team, he had a franchise-record 2,643 career tackles.

Dawkins also delivered a powerful speech, as he promised, cried during it.

One of the hardest-hitting and most versatile safeties in NFL history, Dawkins started at his bust and nodded his approval to the crowd.

"The majority of success I have had has come on the back end of pain," he said noting he had suicidal thoughts when he battled depression. "On the other side of it, all of a sudden I became better. There's a purpose for my pain."

Dawkins was the leader of an Eagles defense that made four straight NFC Championship games and one Super Bowl. Voted to the 2005 NFL All-Decade Team and a five-time All-Pro, Dawkins intercepted passes in 15 consecutive seasons and had 37 picks overall. He averaged nearly 100 tackles a year and spotlighted his versatility as the first player in NFL history to get



The Pro Football Hall of Fame class of 2018, minus Terrell Owens, poses with their busts following inductions on Saturday, in Canton, Ohio. From left: Bobby Beathard, Robert Brazile, Brian Urlacher, Randy Moss, Ray Lewis, Jerry Kramer and Brian Dawkins. GENE J. PUSKAR/AP

a sack, interception, fumble recovery and touchdown catch (on a screen pass) in a game, against Houston in 2002.

Urlacher became a record-28th Chicago Bear inducted into the hall. A first-year nominee who filled the tradition of great middle linebackers in the Windy City so brilliantly, Urlacher actually was a safety at New Mexico. Chicago selected him ninth overall in the 2000 draft and immediately converted him to linebacker. He spent two weeks in training camp on the outside, then was moved inside — for 13 spectacular seasons.

"I love everything about football: the friendships, the coaches, the teachers, the challenges, the opportunity to excel. I loved going to work every day for 13 years," said the 2000 NFL Defensive Rookie of the Year and 2005 Defensive Player of the Year, a season in which Urlacher had 171 tackles.

The five-time All-Pro and member of the 2000s NFL All-Decade Team even did some work on special teams.

But it was in the heart of the defense where he shone.

"The most coveted position for a defensive player to play is middle linebacker for the Chicago Bears," said Urlacher, who had to hold back tears several times. "Just think about it. I hope over my 13 seasons I made you Bears fans proud."

Another first-year nominee, the 6-foot-4, 210-pound Moss brought the perfect combination of height, speed, soft hands and agility to Minnesota as the 21st overall draft pick in 1998 after a rocky college career. His 69 receptions, 17 for touchdowns, and 1,313 yards helped the Vikings go 15-1 and earned him Offensive Rookie of the Year honors.

That was just the start for the eccentric

but always dynamic Moss. When he finally hooked up with an elite quarterback, he caught a record 23 TD passes from Tom Brady in New England's perfect 2007 regular season.

Moss rubbed the face and top of his bust, then delivered a sermon worthy of any church or synagogue. He paid tribute to his family, to the fans of his five teams, and to his roots in West Virginia — he promised he would return to his hometown of Rand on Sunday to show off his gold jacket.

"To my gold jacket brothers, I vow I will wear it," Moss said.

One of those Hall of Fame brothers, Terrell Owens, declined to attend. Instead, he held his own celebration at his college in Chattanooga, Tennessee. He was shown in a video and his photo was hanging in Tom Benson Stadium. Otherwise, T.O. was MIA.

# SPORTS



## Cejudo stunner

Olympic gold medalist upsets UFC champ Johnson » Page 27



Former Baltimore Ravens linebacker Ray Lewis dances beside his bust as he delivers his induction speech at the Pro Football Hall of Fame Saturday, Aug. 4, 2018, in Canton, Ohio.

DAVID RICHARD/AP

# All together now

Lewis calls nation to 'love each other again' in passionate Hall of Fame speech

BY BARRY WILNER  
*Associated Press*

One of the great leaders football has seen, Ray Lewis used his Pro Football Hall of Fame induction speech to call for more enlightened leadership in the United States.

The last of the seven members of the class of 2018 on hand to be enshrined, Lewis eschewed notes and the lectern, instead strolling along the stage and passionately urging his listeners to come together.

"Are you living every day to make this world better?" Lewis asked Saturday night at the end of his 33-minute oratory, often invoking the teachings of Martin Luther

**'Are you living every day to make this world better?  
Think what we can do if we work together as a country.'**

two-time former Super Bowl champion, in his 33-minute Hall of Fame speech on Saturday

King. "Think what we can do if we work together as a country ... teaching our nation to love each other again."

"It's how we react to the challenges in our life that shows our greatness. How do we execute that dream? Who will answer that knock on the door in the middle of the night? And it has to start right now. We need people willing to fight for what is

good and what is right."

Turning to the 140 Hall of Famers on the stage, he told them: "We can go from being legends to building a legacy bigger than football, bigger than sports. Look at what unites us ... the answer is simple, love. Hope, faith and love, and the greatest is love."

Lewis was joined by Randy Moss, Brian

Dawkins, Brian Urlacher, Jerry Kramer, Robert Brazile and Bobby Beathard as inductees at the hall ceremony.

One of the best linebackers in NFL history, Lewis won two Super Bowls with the Ravens; he often chanted "BALTIMORE!" during his speech.

"Tell me something can't be done is like pouring lighter fluid on an open flame," said Lewis, a two-time Defensive Player of the Year who won a second Super Bowl for the 2012 season — coming back from a torn triceps — then retired. He was the MVP of the 2001 title game.

"I came back, and boy did I come back," Lewis said. "When you walk off the last

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## Hurts addresses Alabama's QB controversy » Page 26



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